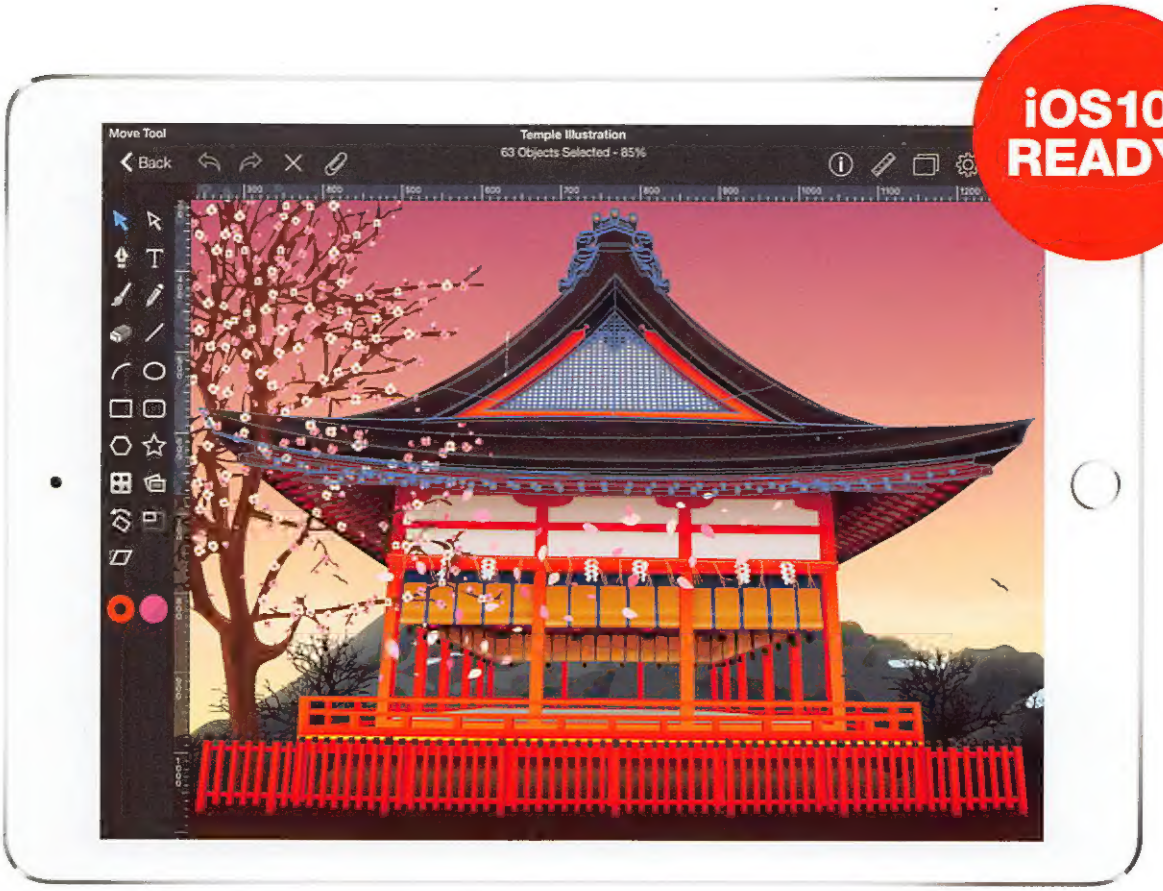
Essential Series

iPad Art & Photography

For iPad Air, mini, Pro and Pro 2



Welcome

Welcome to the Essential Series guide to Art and Photography for iPad – your complete guide to drawing, painting, photography, photo editing, shooting video and making movies on your Apple tablet.

The iPad is the perfect platform for photographers and artists to really express themselves. There are thousands of apps dedicated to every aspect of these art forms and we've selected the very best for you to check out. Our comprehensive tutorials take you through everything you need to know to make the most of some of the best apps available.

With its wonderful screen display and responsive touch screen functionality, the iPad is incredibly satisfying to draw and paint on, especially if you have an Apple Pencil. Check out the mini feature starting on page 12 to learn more about it.

Photography is a huge part of what the iPad is all about. The camera app that comes with iOS is great for general snaps and we have a full guide to all its features and functions. We also take an in-depth look at the Photos app which stores all your images and videos. It's much more than just an image folder though, with a built-in editor and a host of other features, all of which you'll find explained in detail.

If you're a serious photographer looking for more control over your shots, we take you through some of the more advanced camera apps available. We also look at photo and image editing with a section dedicated to Adobe's iPad apps.

If you want to make movies, Apples iMovie is a brilliant video editor and our in-depth tutorial explains all the important features and how to use them. Now let your artistic journey begin, and we hope you enjoy using this guide as much as we enjoyed creating it!

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Using This Guide

This guide brings together many of the best art and photography apps available on the App Store, with detailed tips and tutorials to help you get the most out of them. Many of the tutorials are for third party apps that you'll need to download from the App Store. Wherever possible we've included free versions but many of them include in-app purchases to expand and unlock features. Here you'll find a list of all the apps covered in the tutorials, section by section. Just go onto the App Store and search for them by name. Be aware that some apps have similar names so check the icon and the developer to be sure you get the right ones. Many apps receive regular updates from their developers so you may encounter additional features or changes to the interface but all tutorials are fully up to date at the time of writing.

Adobe

Photoshop Express

Price: Free
Developed By: Adobe

The name tells you what you need to know about this app. It's stripped right back to simple, quick editing tools

Photoshop Fix

Price: Free
Developed By: Adobe

Quickly remove blemishes from faces or unwanted elements from images and much more with this powerful app.

Photoshop Mix

Price: Free
Developed By: Adobe

Another great editor from Adobe that brings yet more functionality to the table enabling you to seamlessly mix images together.

Adobe Draw

Price: Free
Developed By: Adobe

This enables you to create vector images and graphics with ease and save them to the Creative Cloud to use in other projects and apps.

Cameras

Camera+

Price: £2.29
Developed By: tap tap tap

One of the most highly rated camera apps on the App Store, if the default iOS camera isn't doing it for you, this will.

ProCamera

Price: £3.99
Developed By: Cocologics

Another great alternative to the iOS camera app. Our guide takes you through all of ProCamera's great features.

Photo Editing

Sketch Face

Price: Free
Developed By: Huiying YIN

Turn photographs into sketch art and watercolours with ease. Customisable styles give you lots of options.

Color Splurge

Price: Free
Developed By: pixel force private

This app enables you to colourise and decolourise images with really stylish and dramatic results.

Video Editing

iMovie
Price: £3.99
Developed By: Apple
iMovie is arguably the best video editor on the iPad and gives you control over everything that goes into your movies.

Magisto
Price: Free
Developed By: Magisto
If you can't be bothered to manually edit your videos into movies, Magisto can do all the hard work for you.

Video Special FX

Action Movie FX
Price: Free
Developed By: Bad Robot Interactive
Add amazing, movie-quality special effects to your videos with this excellent app. Tons of effects are available.

Green Screen Movie FX Studio
Price: £2.29
Developed By: Epocfield
This high quality green screen app enables you to shoot subjects against a plain background and replace it with new backdrops.

8mm Vintage Camera
Price: £1.49
Developed By: Nexvio
Applying different film stock effects is a great way to give your videos style. This app has several authentic-looking stocks to choose from.

Drawing And Painting

Inspire Pro
Price: £5.99
Developed By: snowCanoe
Inspire Pro was developed specifically for the iPad to take advantage of its power and features.

Inkist
Price: Free
Developed By: Tai Shimizu
Inkist's wide range of customisable features make it another great choice for iPad artists.

Sketches
Price: Free
Developed By: Tayasui
Sketches is one of the best art packages out there and it's a joy to use no matter how great or limited your artistic talent may be.

Graphics And Animation

Assembly
Price: Free
Developed By: Pixite
Assembly enables you to create cool images through the use of many different shapes. The possibilities are endless.

Anatomy Of The iPad

If you're new to the iPad then here you'll find detailed explanations of all the externally visible ports, buttons and gizmos. There are some variations between models.

1. The Home Button/ Touch ID
The iPad Pro, mini 3 and Air 2 Home button contains a fingerprint sensor that enables it to identify you simply by touching it. Older models just have the standard button. Pressing the home button itself will always take you back to the home screen, whatever you're doing. One press is all it takes. A double tap will make the multitasking bar pop up so you can jump between apps quickly and easily. If want to access Siri, hold the Home button down for a few moments to activate it. To power off the device, hold it down along with the Sleep/Wake button and keep them held until the screen goes blank.

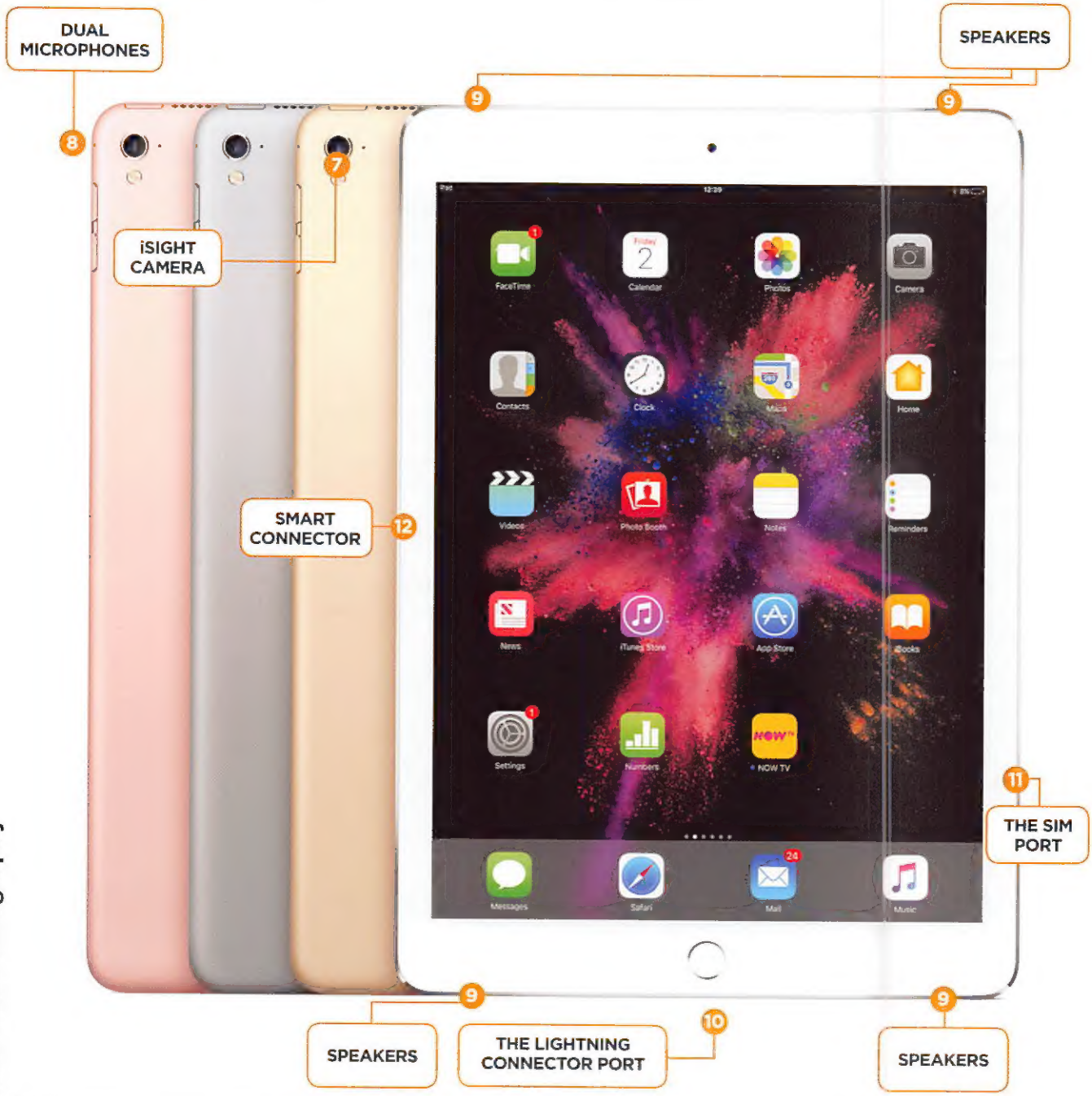
2. The Sleep/Wake Button
This is another control that you'll be using a lot. To turn off your iPad's screen, just press this button, which is tucked away on the edge of your iPad in the top-right hand corner. This is useful if you need to conserve battery power. You can either put your iPad to sleep or, if you won't be using it for a while, you can turn it off by holding down this button for a few seconds until the Slide To Power Off option appears. You can also use the Sleep/Wake button to turn the screen back on when you want to use your iPad again, but if it's only in sleep mode, the Home button will do the same job. If your iPad is powered off, hold the Sleep/Wake button to turn it back on. Holding the Sleep/Wake button and tapping the Home button takes a capture of whatever is on the screen at that moment and saves it to Photos.

3. The +/- Buttons
Pressing the plus and minus buttons while on the home page will increase or decrease the volume respectively. In fact, pressing these buttons will alter the volume of any audio that is currently being played through the speaker or your headphones. They also double as more conveniently placed shutter buttons to take pictures with your iPad camera.

4. The Screen
It's a sensitive screen, so only the lightest touch or the faintest swipe of the finger is needed to achieve the desired effect. The Retina display on the iPad Pro features a 2732x2048 resolution, rich colour saturation and an astounding 5.5 million pixels. That's almost twice as many as the iPad Air (and you can fit two iPad Air-style windows side-by side on the display). The pixels are so close together, your eyes can't discern individual ones at a normal viewing distance. Every iPad also boasts a fingerprint-resistant screen coating to prevent smears, and strengthened glass on both the front and rear panels. It's probably best not to test that strength out by dropping it.

5. FaceTime HD Camera
With the HD FaceTime camera, you'll look great in video chats! You can also use it for taking self-portraits or recording 720p HD video. The front-facing camera is known as the FaceTime camera, because its primary purpose is to enable video calls.

Anatomy Of The iPad (continued)



7. iSight Camera
The iPad's main camera is called the iSight camera. It can take eight-megapixel photos and 1080p HD video and it's packed with the latest camera hardware technology to ensure your snaps look good no matter how little talent you may have as a photographer. There are a few more handy features built in too, including face detection, to focus on the important part of your photo, and video stabilisation to smooth out any shakiness in your images.

8. Dual Microphones (iPad Pro only)
This feature is unique to the iPad Pro. The dual microphones are able to pick up more sound and also feature better noise reduction than the single mic found on other models. If you have the Pro model, recording and voice messaging will never have sounded so crisp and clear.

9. Speakers
The iPad Pro has quad speakers, one in each corner. The iPad smartly detects which way it is being held up, and adjusts the audio quality on the fly. Other models have just the dual speakers although quad speakers are likely to feature on iPad Air 3. The sound quality really is great on all models but the Pro is the best.

10. The Lightning Connector Port
When you need to plug your iPad in to charge or to transfer files, you'll need to plug your charger or cable into this tiny port, found at the very bottom of your iPad. It also has a second use on the iPad Pro, which is to charge (and sync) the Apple Pencil.

11. The SIM Port
If your iPad is a Wi-Fi-only model, this won't be there. If you have a 3G/4G + Wi-Fi model, though, turn your iPad over to see the slot where the SIM card is inserted. If you do have this model, you'll find it's a bit fiddly to insert the SIM card in the first place; you'll need to use a pin or the SIM eject tool that came in the box to press the tiny button in the hole on the side, and then the SIM tray will pop out. The SIM enables you to surf the web on the move with a mobile data plan.

12. Smart Connector (iPad Pro only)
Look closely on the side of the iPad Pro, and you'll find these three small circles. This is the all-new Smart Connector and is used to connect the iPad Pro to the Smart Keyboard. When it clicks on to the iPad Pro, you can quickly start writing without having to do any of the syncing via Bluetooth hassle.

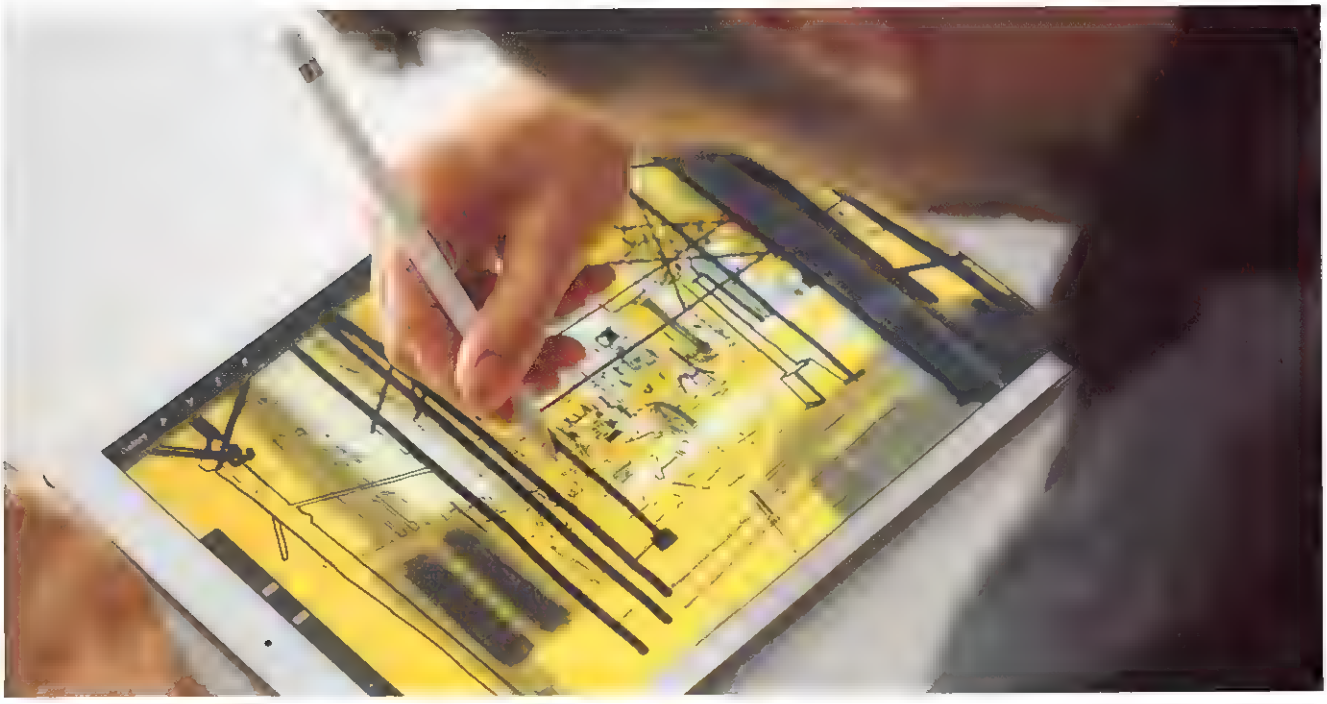
The Apple Pencil

The Apple Pencil offers a whole new way to interact with your iPad. You can still use your fingers to tap, swipe and select items, but the Apple Pencil enables you to sketch and draw with extreme precision. Many of the apps featured in this guide come with Apple Pencil support built in, if you take your art seriously, you should really think about checking it out. Of course you can draw with your fingers, but you don't get the same accuracy or functionality. For one thing, your fingers (no offence here) are comparatively fat, and will obscure your view of what you're actually working on. The Apple Pencil solves that problem instantly. Of course it also far closer replicates the physical nature of using actual brushes and pencils. It's more than a mere stylus though, and it can help to recreate subtler aspects of the painting and drawing process, registering the pressure you apply in the way ink and paint is applied to the page.

Simply holding the Apple Pencil makes you feel like an art or design professional. It's perfectly balanced in the hand with the nib pushing against the surface of your screen to draw lines. At the other end lies the Lightning Connector.

Set It Up

Flipping the top end off of the Apple Pencil reveals a Lightning Connector. This is used to charge, and sync your Apple Pencil. There's none of the faff that you usually have when syncing a device wirelessly to your iPad. Simply connect the Apple Pencil to the iPad and a message will pop up on the screen saying "Bluetooth pairing request: Apple Pencil would like to pair with your iPad". Tap Pair, the Apple Pencil will be linked to your iPad, and you can start using it straight away. It's as simple as that. You can use the Apple Pencil to tap, select and swipe the screen and perform any function on your iPad in place of a finger, but it really comes into its own when used with apps designed to use the Apple Pencil. As mentioned earlier, it's built for sketching and drawing.



Starting to sketch

The Notes app is a good place to practice. Tap New Note and the Sketch icon in the bottom. Now you can start drawing on the screen just as you would with a pencil. As you sketch, ink appears on the screen. The harder you press the Apple Pencil, the firmer the lines will be. If you angle the Apple Pencil so you're drawing with the side, you'll be able to draw in shading, just like a real pencil.

At the bottom of Notes you'll find a variety of different pencils to choose from, as well as colours to pick. Other apps, such as Paper, Pixelmator and Procreate offer a much wider range of tools to choose from. It's not just a tool for designers though. You'll find it incredibly handy to use an Apple Pencil when working with any kind of visual images. It's great for building presentations in Keynote, or to sketch out plans and diagrams in an app like Omnigraffle. And you can use it with the Photos app to adjust your images.

In short, if you're intending to use your iPad for artistic purposes (and the fact that you're reading this suggests that you probably are) then you really should consider investing in this great accessory. If you decide to do so, or you already have one, be sure to check the settings of whichever app your using for compatibility. Most relevant apps will feature Apple Pencil support but it usually has to be enabled manually. We repeat – always check the settings.

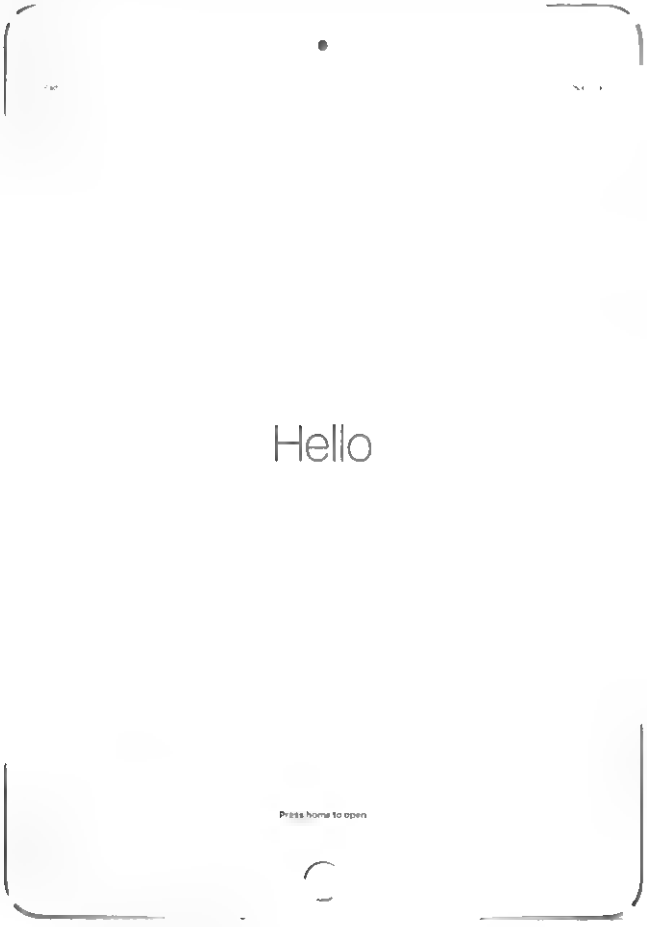
Getting Started

If your iPad is already up and running, or you've had an iPad before, then you can skip this section. It's here for people that are new to Apple's tablet and unsure of the set-up process and how it works. For those users, we have a simple tutorial that covers each step of the setup process. It's pretty simple and self-explanatory but if there's anything you get stuck on or don't understand, you'll find it explained here. Once you've completed the set-up process, your iPad will be fully up and running and you'll be ready to get started.

If you really want to explore your iPad's potential as a tool for art and photography, you're going to want to download some apps, some of the best of which we have tutorials for in this guide. The App Store is where you go to download apps, and if you've never used it before, we have a guide for that as well.

"Once you've completed the set-up process, your iPad will be fully up and running and you'll be ready to get started"

Set Up Your iPad: Part 1



When setting up your iPad, you'll be prompted to complete a few simple steps. Note that some steps such as setting up Touch ID don't occur on all iPad models.

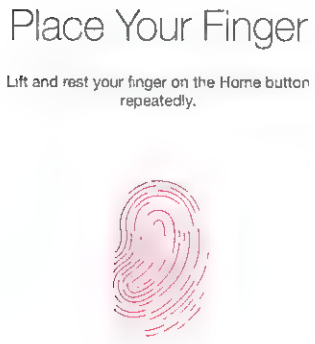
Step 1: Connecting To Wi-Fi

If you have an iPad with Wi-Fi and Cellular, insert the SIM card. If not, you'll need to be near a Wi-Fi connection and have the password ready. Now press the Sleep/Wake button to turn it on. Slide your finger across the screen to start the setup process. Pick your Wi-Fi network, and enter the password (or tap Use Mobile Connection).

Step 2: Location Services

Next you have to choose whether you want to Enable Location Services. It's a good idea, because you can get your location in apps like Maps and Find My iPhone. But it does share your location with Apple. If you're not comfortable with that, you can choose Disable Location Services instead (you can turn it on at a later point).

Step 3: Touch ID



The next part of the process is to set up Touch ID . When prompted, press your thumb to the screen. You'll see a representation start to build up as you tap. Then you'll be asked to tap the side of your thumb. You can add more fingers later on (using Settings > Touch ID & Passcode), but for now just add the thumb on the hand you use most.

Step 4: Create A Passcode

Now you'll be asked to create a six-figure passcode. This is longer than the old iOS passcodes (which used to be four numbers), but most of the time you'll be able to use Touch ID to log in. The passcode is only required when you haven't signed in for a while, or when you restart your iPad. Choose a number that you will remember quickly and easily.

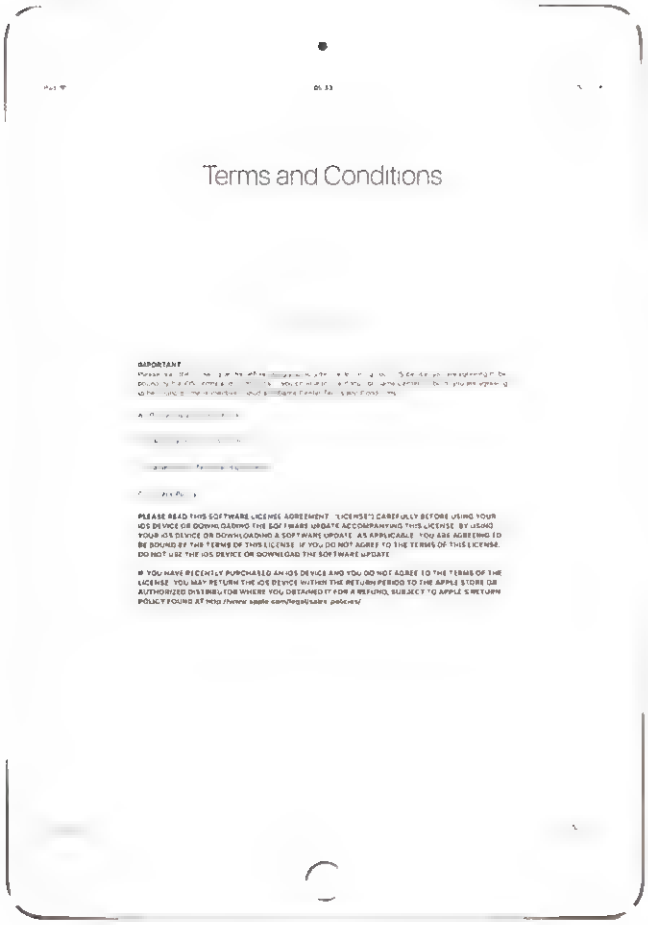
Step 5: Apps And Data

Your iPad will ask you if you want to restore your system from a back up on iCloud or iTunes, which you can do by choosing that option. If you've never backed up an iPad before, this obviously doesn't apply to you, so just pick Set Up As New to start from scratch. If you do have backed up data, select that option instead and follow the prompts.

Step 6: Sign In Or Set Up Apple ID

You will then be asked to Sign In With An Apple ID. If this is not your first iPhone, or if you have one or more other Apple devices, you will already have an Apple ID, and can sign in with it now. If not, click on Don't have an Apple ID or forgot it? and follow the on-screen instructions. You'll need an Apple ID to get apps, and to use Apple's online iCloud services.

Set Up Your iPad: Part 2



Just a few more steps to go. Again, not all of these steps will be required as functionality varies between iPad models. If your iPad doesn't have the feature, the step is missed out.

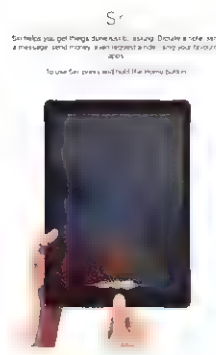
Step 7: Add Card

Tap Agree in the Terms and Conditions window (if you don't you can't use the iPad). You'll now see the Add Card window. You can do a lot on your iPad for free (or at least for the price you paid for it), but a lot of apps and services need paying for. Whip out your debit, or credit, card and enter the main number. Now enter the security code (the three digit number on the back).

Step 8: iCloud Keychain

If you have an iPhone, or a Mac, you might want to use iCloud Keychain to sync your passwords between devices. If you've already set up iCloud Keychain tap Approve From Other Devices or Use iCloud Security Code. If not, tap Don't Restore Passwords and carry on. You can always set up iCloud Keychain at a later date if you haven't done so already.

Step 9: Siri



Siri is the voice-activated assistant for all iOS devices, and is great fun (as well as incredibly useful). Some people don't want to use Siri, if so tap Turn On Later. But we think you're really missing out if you don't have Siri on your iPad. So tap Turn On Siri and follow the instructions to make sure it is acquainted with your voice. You access Siri by holding down the Home Button.

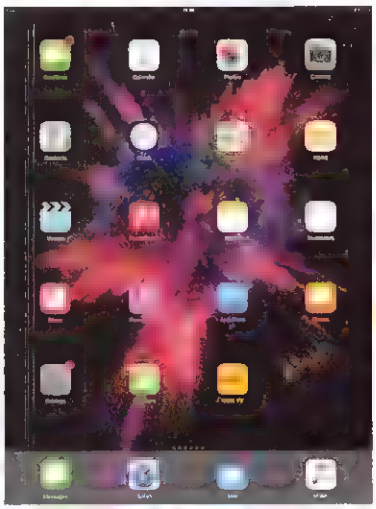
Step 10: Diagnostics

Apple likes to get detailed information about each device, and uses this to figure out how iPad's are used and what has happened if something goes wrong (like an app crash). If you want to help Apple out, tap Send To Apple, or if not tap Don't Send. If you're not sure, tap About Diagnostics & Privacy to figure out what Apple wants, and whether you're happy to share.

Step 11: App Analytics

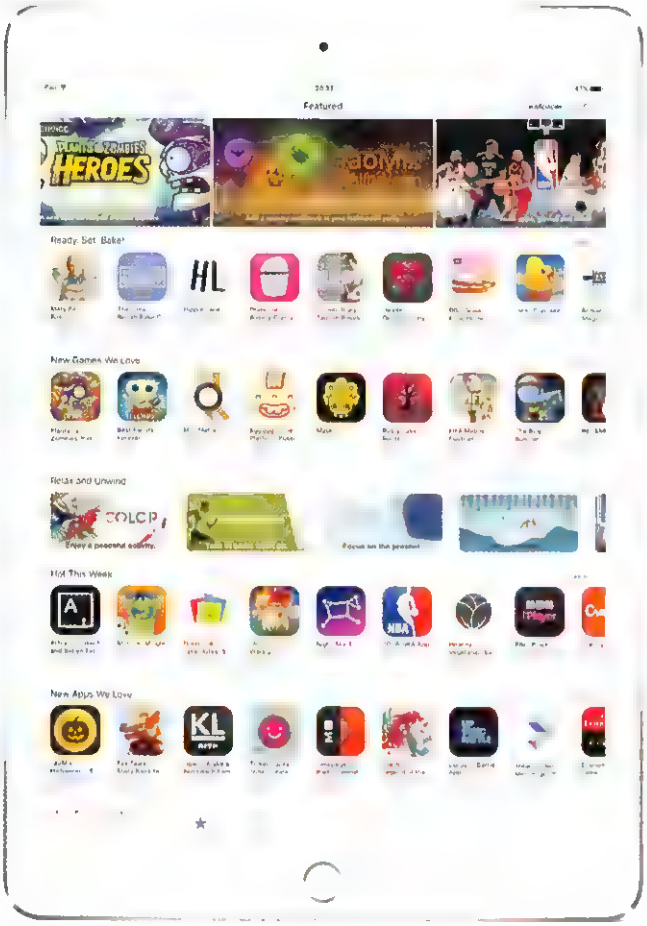
It's one thing to send your information to Apple, it's another to send it to third-party app developers. Mind you, these guys and gals create the incredible apps you're using, and letting them know when something goes wrong really helps them make better apps. Tap Share With App Developer's or Don't Share, depending on your personal preferences.

Step 12: Welcome To iPad



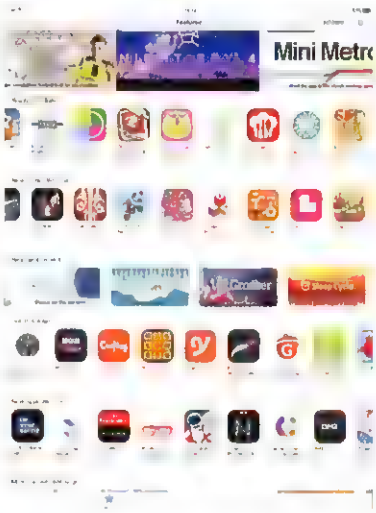
Phew! Finally you've gone through the process of setting up your iPad and it's good to go. Tap Get Started to switch from the setup screen to the Home Screen. You can start using your iPad right away. If you have an Apple Pencil, now is a good time to put it into the Lightning Connection socket (and tap Pair) to sync it up. Attach the Smart Keyboard case too.

The App Store



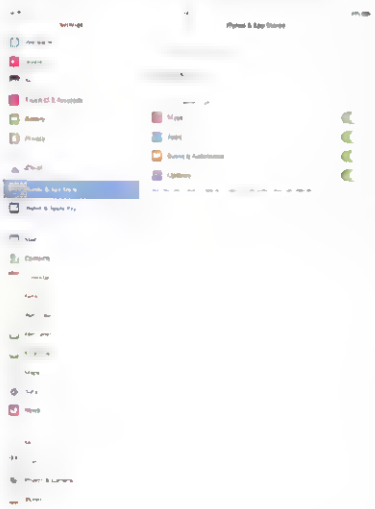
Most of the apps covered in this book will need to be downloaded from the App Store. If you haven't used it before, here's a complete guide to how it works.

Step 1: Welcome To The App Store



The place to get apps is the App Store. You can think of it as a real store, with products in every category you can think of. You can browse the App Store on a computer through iTunes or on any other iOS device. If you're looking on your iPad, it will filter only apps optimised for the format. So, without further ado lets get you started downloading apps for yourself.

Step 2: Your Account

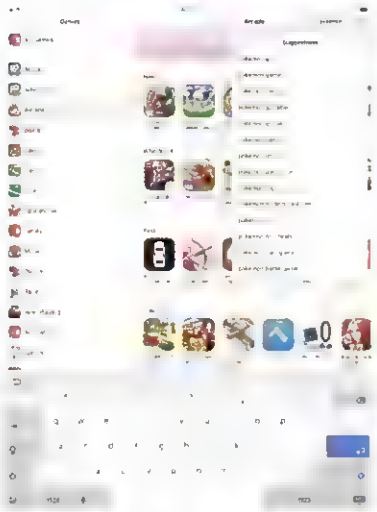


If you've already created an Apple ID, you'll have instant access to the App Store. However, you have to provide payment details in order to buy apps. Go to Settings, choose iTunes & App Store, touch your Apple ID at the top, select View Apple ID, then tap Payment Information. Enter your details as they're shown on your card statements, then press Done.

Step 3: Browse The App Store

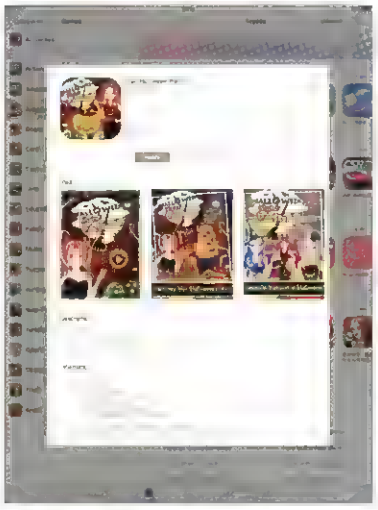
The App Store isn't as intuitive as it could be. It's split into various genre categories (and further subcategories in some cases) and you can browse via paid apps, free apps or new apps, but that doesn't mean the best apps are going to be immediately obvious. Whenever you stumble across anything you do like this look of, add it to your Wish List.

Step 4: Search The App Store



If you know the name of an app that you want, you can tap the search icon at the bottom and type it into the field provided. Tap Search and when the list appears, touch an app to read more. As there are many similarly named apps, double-check you've found the one you actually want before you download it. You can also search by keyword if you want to.

Step 5: Downloading Apps



Once you're sure you've found an app you want, scroll to the top of the information screen and press the button indicating the price (either free or a value). Press it again when it switches to either Install or Buy, then enter your Apple ID password as directed by the pop-up box. The app will then automatically be downloaded to your home page.

Step 6: Deleting Apps

To remove apps go to the home page and hold your finger down on any app icon until they all start jiggling. Now you can browse your home pages and touch the X on any icon to delete that app, confirming your choice before it deletes. Note you can't delete apps that came pre-loaded on the iPad. Only those downloaded from the App Store can be removed.

Camera And Photos

The iPad comes with a built-in camera app as part of iOS. Although professional photographers will criticize its lack of flexibility, for most people it's more than adequate and has plenty of cool and useful features. Our detailed tutorial explains everything it can do one step at a time, where to find the different options, and how they work. The camera app is also where you'll find the iPad's video camera software, if you were wondering.

Photos is where the iPad stores all your images and videos, whether taken with the camera, downloaded from the web or created in other apps. It comes with basic editing functionality for both images and videos, all explained in the tutorial, as well as the ability to organise all your images and videos into folders and albums. Everything you need to know about the iOS Camera app and Photos, you'll find explained in this section.

"Everything you need to know about the iOS Camera app and Photos, you'll find explained in this section"

Camera

The iPad comes with its own built-in camera software. Professionals may find it somewhat limiting, but it has all the features that most casual users will want.

Step 1: Open Camera App

You're most probably familiar enough with the iPad to know where the Camera app is, but if you're a complete beginner, you'll find it on the Home Screen. Unsurprisingly it looks like a camera. Tap it to open the camera viewfinder.

Step 2: Access Camera From Lock Screen

If you spot a great potential shot but your iPad is locked, you might not have time to unlock it, find the Camera app and open it, but there's a quicker way. Press the Home button to go to the lock screen then swipe right to left to open the Camera.

Step 3: Access Camera In Control Centre

If you're in an app and you want to jump to the camera quickly without having to go back to the Home screen, just swipe up from the bottom of the screen to open Control Centre and tap the camera icon to open it instantly.

Step 4: Controls

When the camera app opens it goes straight to the main viewfinder mode with all the important controls down the right-hand side of the screen. We'll look at each one individually and explain exactly what they all do.

Step 5: Digital Zoom

The one control on the left of the screen is the digital zoom slider. It starts in the default fully zoomed out position. Slide it up to zoom in. You can also pinch the screen to zoom. We recommend not using it as it sacrifices image quality.

Step 6: HDR

The top option on the Control Panel is HDR. This stands for High Dynamic Range and how it works is it takes three different exposures of the same shot and then combines them for optimal picture quality and greater detail.

Camera (continued)

Step 7: Timer

The icon below HDR is the shutter timer. Tap it and three options appear – Off, 3s, and 10s. Select the one you want and then when you press the shutter button, there'll be a countdown before the camera takes the shot.

Step 8: Face Camera

The next control switches to the iPad's face camera. Other than for selfies there's not much point in doing this as the face camera isn't as a good as the main camera. Also, the face camera doesn't have the HDR option.

Step 9: Shutter Button

Next is the shutter button. To take a picture, tap it! You can also use the volume up and down buttons if you find that easier. In addition, if you have Apple headphones plugged in, you can use the headphone volume controls as well.

Step 10: Picture/Video Preview

Below the shutter button is a preview of the last photo or video that you took. You can view it instantly to see whether you like it by tapping it and if you don't you can delete it straight away to avoid clogging up your photos with unwanted pictures.

Step 11: Time-Lapse

Beneath the Preview are the various shooting options. Swipe up and down to choose between them. The first is Time-Lapse. In this mode, the camera will keep taking shots at regular intervals until you cancel it.

Step 12: Slo-Mo

Slo-Mo is a video mode that captures footage at a very high frame-rate. This enables it to be played back in silky-smooth slow motion. Obviously, the high frame-rate makes the file size of video shot in Slo-Mo much bigger.

Step 13: Video

Next is the standard Video option. Remember video is best shot in landscape orientation. When it comes to editing, more clips and different angles works better than one long clip shot from the same position.

Step 14: Photo

This is the standard photo option and the one you'll use for the vast majority of the photography work you do on your iPad. There's not really much more to say about it than that. Select it, point and shoot. Simple.

Camera (continued)

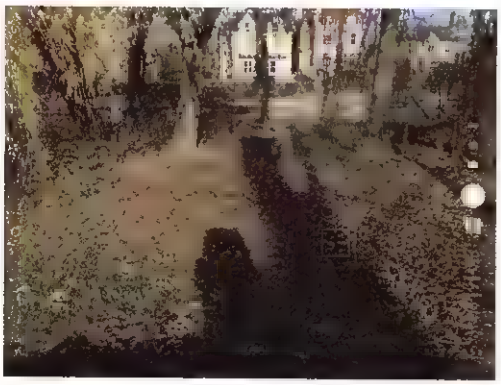
Step 15: Square

Square gives you a standard photo cropped automatically to a square shape. Why do you need such a thing? Quite simply, square images work well in social media, for profile pictures and that sort of thing. It's there if you want it.

Step 16: Pano

Pano mode enables you to take dramatic panoramic shots. Hold the camera in portrait mode and move the camera slowly along the line to take in the entirety of the panorama you want to capture. Tap Stop to complete the panorama.

Step 17: Set Brightness



The camera automatically sets the brightness level. To set the brightness level at a particular point, just tap where you want in the viewfinder. To manually set the brightness, tap once and then slide your finger up and down.

Step 18: AE/AF Lock

Area Exposure/Area Focus Lock isn't immediately obvious. To enable it, tap and hold where you want the Exposure/Focus point to be. After a few moments, the AE/AF Lock confirmation appears at the top of the screen.

Step 19: Burst Mode

Holding the shutter button engages burst mode which takes lots of shots in rapid succession. It's great for action sequences as well as capturing dramatic action shots that would be almost impossible to time with a regular manual shot.

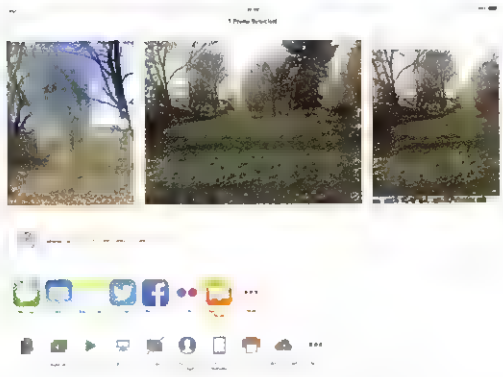
Step 20: Turn On The Grid

Open Settings and select the Photos & Camera option. Here you'll find the option to turn the grid on or off. This displays a grid in the viewfinder to help your image composition as well as helping you keep the camera level.

Step 21: Video Quality

Also in Settings is another option called Record Video. Tapping on this enables you to choose between 720p HD at 30fps and 1080p at 30fps. Obviously, 1080p is higher quality but uses up much more of your valuable storage.

Step 22: Share, Edit And Delete Images



If you take a shot you like, you can immediately share it. Tap the preview to open the image then tap the Share button at the top of the screen. You can also edit it by tapping the sliders icon or delete it by tapping the bin.

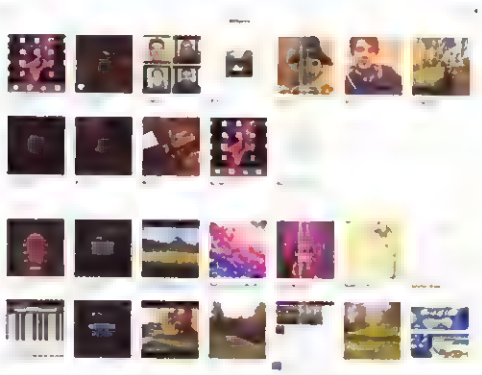
Photos

The Photos app is where all your images and videos are stored. It enables you to organise, edit and share them with ease.

Step 1: The Photos App

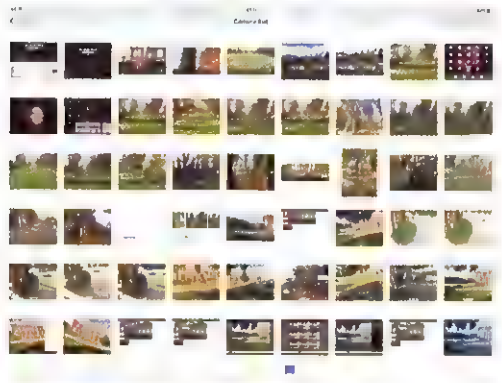
You'll find the Photos app on the Home screen. This is where all the images you create, photos you take, pictures you download and videos you shoot on your iPad are stored. Tap the app to open it up and get started.

Step 2: Albums



Tap the Album button at the bottom of the screen to see all your existing albums. There are a few default ones, and you can create your own. This makes it easier to find the images or videos you want even if you have hundreds.

Step 3: Camera Roll

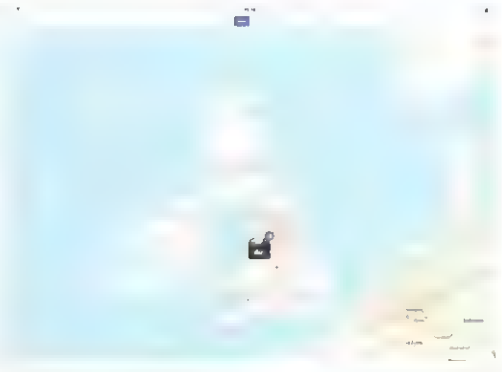


The Camera Roll contains every image and video you've created or downloaded in one place. If it's on your iPad, it's here. Obviously, the Camera Roll soon becomes large and hard to manage, so you're better off using albums.

Step 4: Album Categories

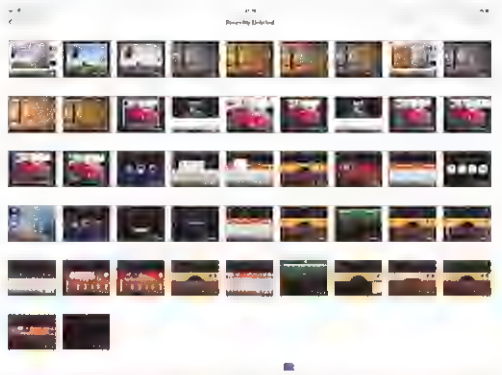
Default categories include the different various camera functions including Videos, Slo-Mo, Bursts and so on. The app is intelligent so it can also pick out selfies and people shots, which it puts into their own folders automatically.

Step 5: Places



The Places folder appears if you enable geotagging images in the Camera settings. Open it up and you'll see a map with thumbnails on it in the locations where the shots were taken. It's great if you travel around a lot.

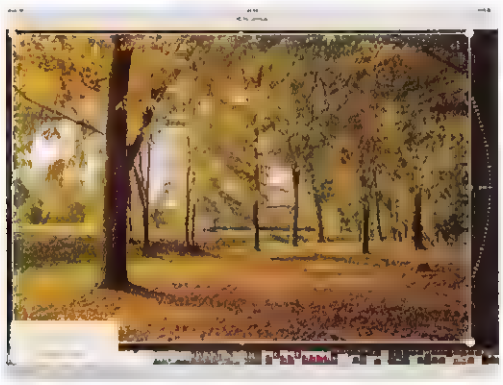
Step 6: Recently Deleted



All deleted images stay in the Recently Deleted folder for 30 days before being deleted permanently. If you want to retrieve a deleted image, open the Deleted Images folder, open the image and tap Recover to return it to Camera Roll.

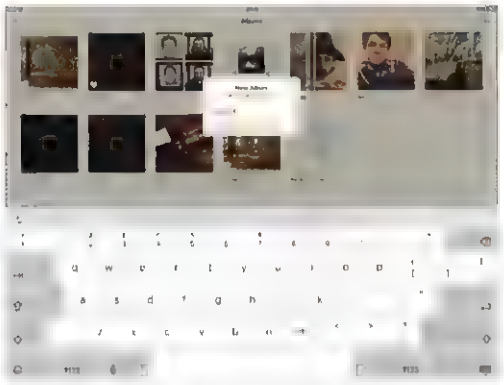
Photos (continued)

Step 7: Delete Images Permanently



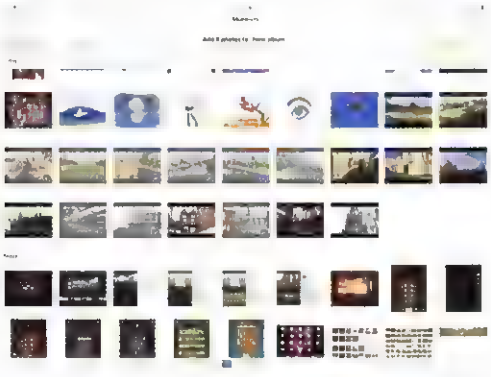
If for any reason you don't want images remaining on your iPad you can manually delete them immediately and permanently. Delete the image or video as normal then open Recently Deleted, open the image and tap Delete.

Step 8: Create An Album



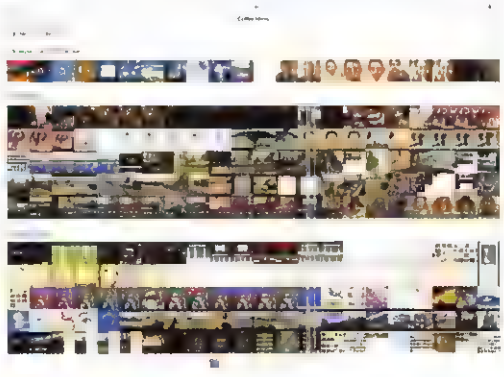
The default albums help keep things organised but you're going to want to create your own. To do so, return to the Album view and tap the 'Plus' symbol then enter a name for your album in the window that pops up.

Step 9: Add Images To Album



After creating an album you're taken to the Photos view to choose the images you want to put in it. Tap them to select them and tap Done when ready. To add more images, open the album, tap Edit and then tap Add.

Step 10: Photos



The Photos view organises all your images and videos by date. By default you get the daily view. Tap Collections to zoom the view out and tap Years to view images by year. Tap the space at the bottom of the screen to zoom back in.

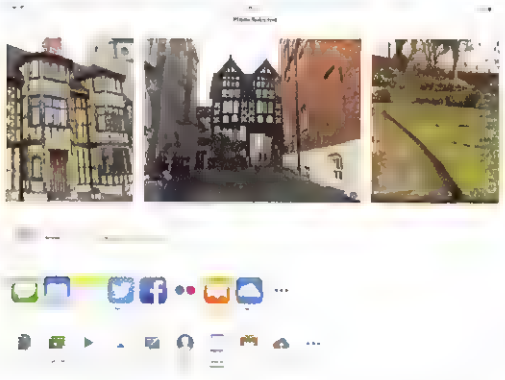
Step 11: Memories

You'll notice another button sandwiched between Photos and Albums – Memories. Tap this to view an automatically generated movie of all your clips and shots from the last month. There's a full tutorial on this over the page.

Step 12: Viewing Photos And Videos

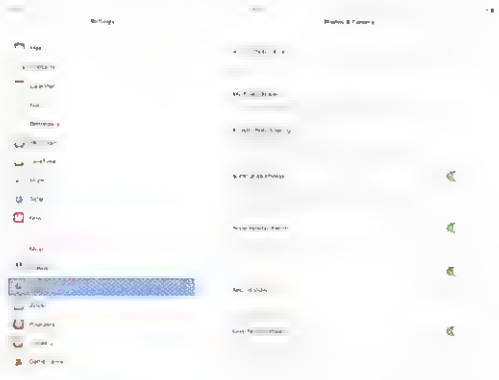
Tap on image thumbnails wherever you see them to open them. You can swipe left and right to flick between images in the same folder. You can tell at a glance which thumbnails are videos as the thumbnails are marked with a time signature.

Step 13: Favourites, Sharing & Deleting



When you have an image open you can favourite it by tapping the Heart button at the top. This will add it to your favourites folder. The Share button enables you to share it on social media or Messages and the bin deletes it.

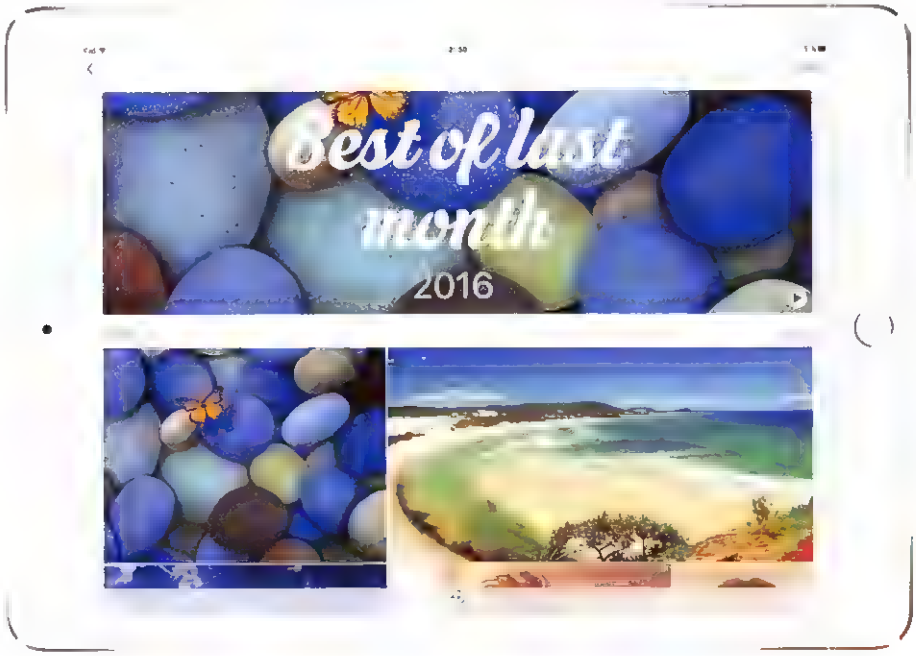
Step 14: Photo Stream



If you turn Photo Stream on, all your images will immediately be shared across all your iOS devices. You can also share them instantly with friends and family. Open the Settings app, select Photos & Camera and turn My Photo Stream on.

Memories

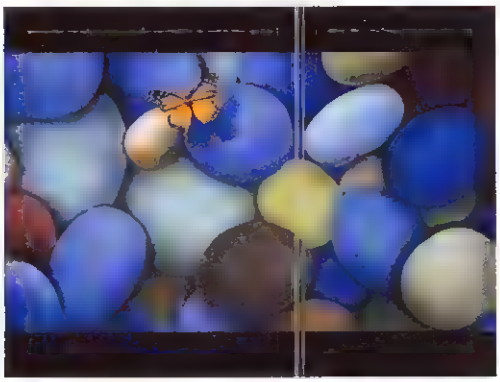
Memories is a neat feature of Photos that creates mini-movies with soundtracks and titles from your videos and pictures.



Step 1: Open Memories

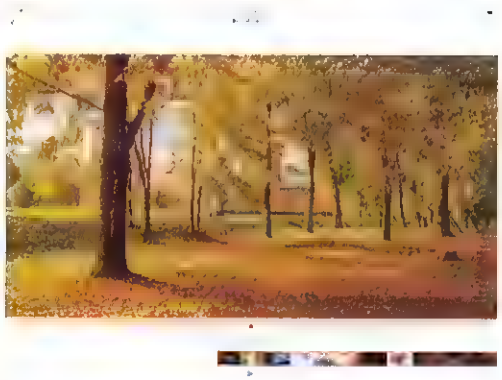
Photos comes with its own little automated video editor, but it's rather hidden away and it's not very obvious that it's there at all. To find it, open the Photos app and tap the Memories button at the bottom of the screen.

Step 2: Play The Memory



The main screen features an automatically-generated video made up of images and videos from the past month. To view it, tap Play. Tap the screen to bring up some basic controls enabling you to choose a theme and set the length.

Step 3: Edit Screen



To open the main editing screen, tap the icon that looks like an EQ in the bottom right of the screen. It's very simple with just a few basic options which make it really easy to create nice little movies to remember those fun times.

Step 4: Choose A Theme

There are different themes to choose from to give your movie the feel you want. These are down in the bottom left of the screen. Swipe up and down to see them all, tap one to select it and tap the Play button to preview it.

Step 5: Add A Title

Above the themes is the title. By default it's set to 'Best of last month'. Tap it to bring up the keyboard and type your new title in. You can also replace the displayed year with additional text of your own in the same way.

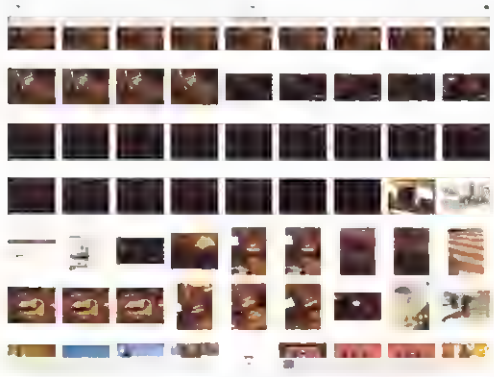
Step 6: Choose Soundtrack And Length

Tap where it says Music then choose Soundtracks to use one of the built-in soundtracks or My Music to select one of your own tracks. Finally, you get to set the length. It can be anything from six seconds up to two minutes.

Editing Videos And Images In Photos

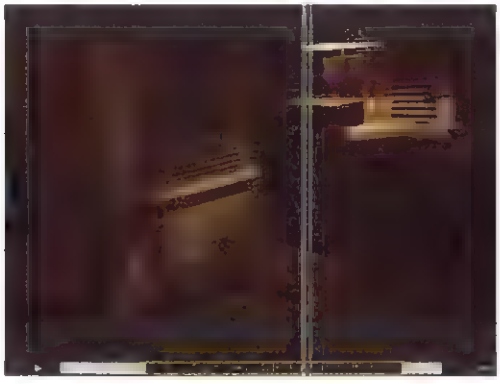
The iOS Photos app comes with a set of editing tools built-in. It's not the most comprehensive editor but there are lots of useful features to play around with.

Step 1: Open A Photo Or Video



The first thing you need to do is open a video or photo to work on. You can tell videos as they have a timecode on the Thumbnail. Tap the image or video and then tap the edit icon that looks like an EQ at the top of the screen.

Step 2: Trim Video Clips



Trim video clips to get rid of unwanted footage at the start and end. A timeline of the clip appears at the bottom of the screen. Hold and drag one end of the timeline to bring up the highlight box then drag the ends to the desired start and end positions.

Step 3: Edit Videos

To the right of the timeline is a button with three dots in a circle. Tap this and you can open the video directly in iMovie, or any other compatible video editing apps that you have enabled on your iPad. See our video editing tutorials for more.

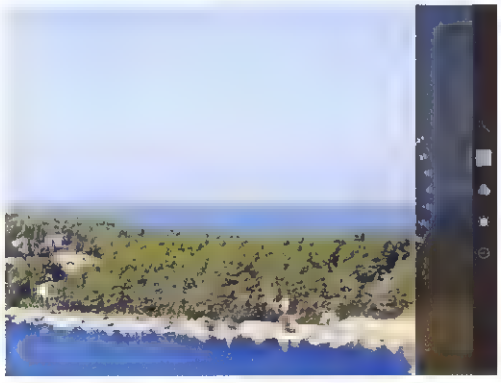
Step 4: Photo Editing Options

When you select Edit on an image you get five main controls down the right-hand side of the screen if you're working in landscape orientation or across the bottom if you're using looking at it in portrait.

Step 5: Auto Enhance

The first button is the magic auto-enhance wand. If you don't want to mess about too much but just want to quickly optimise your image, tap this and it will make automatic adjustments to brightness and contrast for a better photo.

Step 6: Crop And Rotate



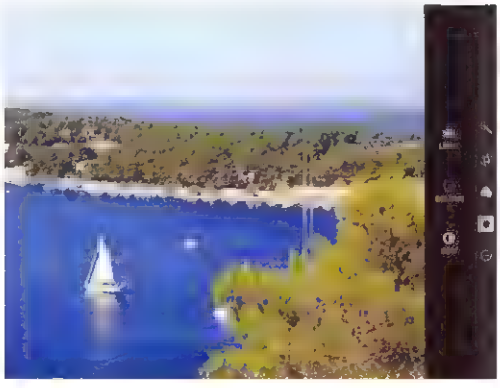
To rotate the image, hold your finger on the dial and swipe up and down (landscape) or left and right (portrait) to rotate the image. Scaling will occur to fill the frame of the shot. Drag the corners of the box to crop.

Editing Videos And Images In Photos (continued)

Step 7: Filters

The next button brings up a selection of preset filters that enable you to give your photos a different personality and feel. Tap each one to apply it and see what it looks like and tap Done when you find one you like or Cancel to discard it.

Step 8: Light, Colour And B&W

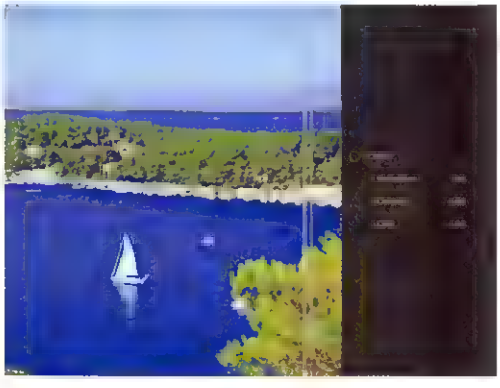


The next control opens up three new options to further enhance your image – Light, Colour and B&W. Tap each one to open a series of presets and tap each one to try it. However, if you don't like them you can tweak them further.

Step 9: Light

Tap the menu icon below the Light pre-sets to open the Light options. Tapping each one brings up its individual adjustable slider. You can tweak the exposure, adjust the shadow level, make the blacks darker or lighter and more.

Step 10: Colour

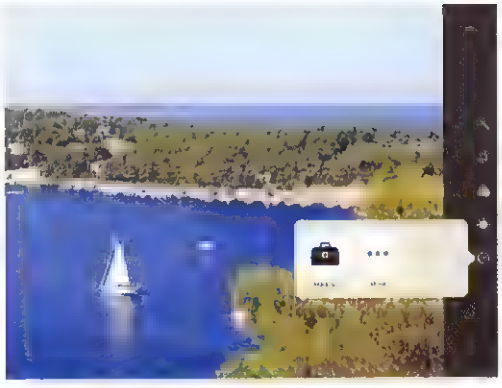


Colour works the same way. Tap the menu icon below the presets and you get three options to play with – Saturation, Contrast and Cast With experimentation, you can come up with some very cool effects using these three sliders.

Step 11: B&W

B&W, if you hadn't already twigged, stands for black and white, and you can add some really interesting textures and contrast using the four tweakable sliders. To dismiss them and return to the presets, tap Close at the bottom of the screen.

Step 12: Markup

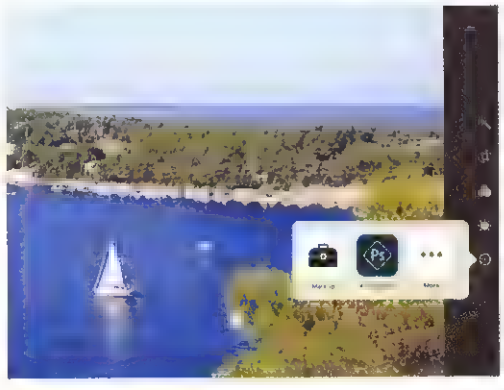


The last icon brings up additional editing options. The first of these is Markup which we've got a full tutorial for over the page. Basically, it gives you a set of tools that enable you to add tags and annotations to your images.

Step 13: Add More Photo Editors

Next to the Markup icon in the additional editing options window is another icon with three dots on it marked more. This enables you to add more powerful photo editing apps that you have installed on your iPad and go straight to them.

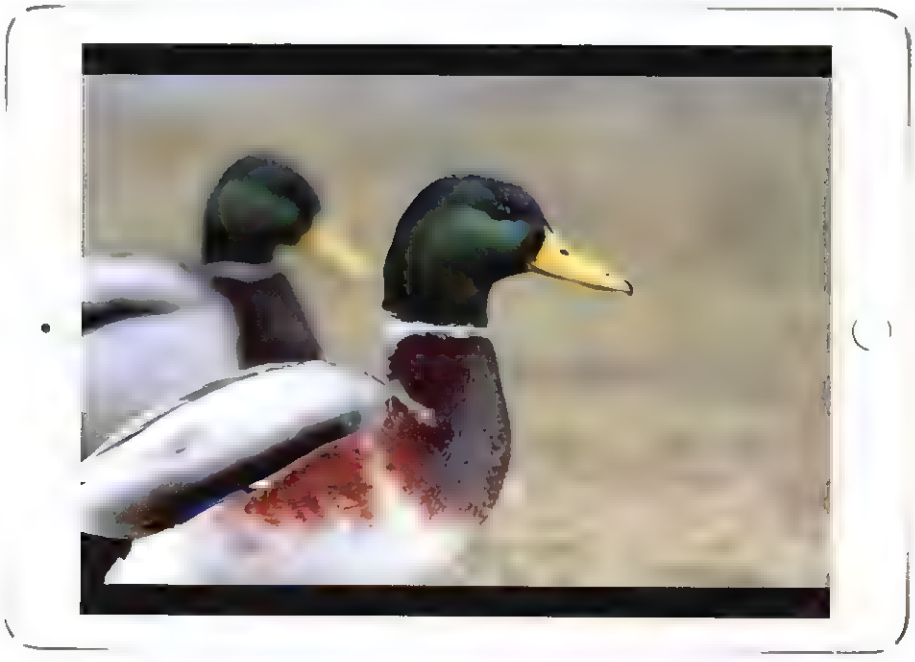
Step 14: Choose Editors To Add



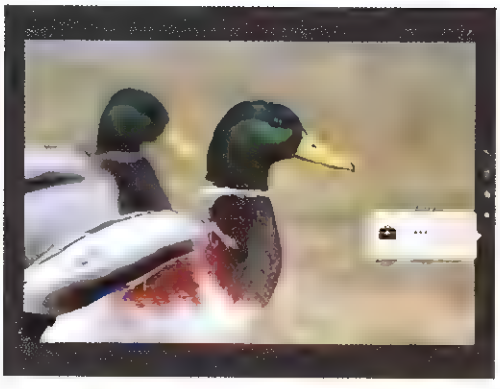
When you tap the More button you'll see a list of all the available, compatible editors on your iPad. Enable the ones you want by toggling the switch next to them to green. You will then be able to access them in the menu.

Editing Images In Photos – Markup

Markup is almost a hidden feature in Photos, but it's useful if you want to highlight or explain parts of an image. Here's how to find it and how it works.



Step 1: Markup

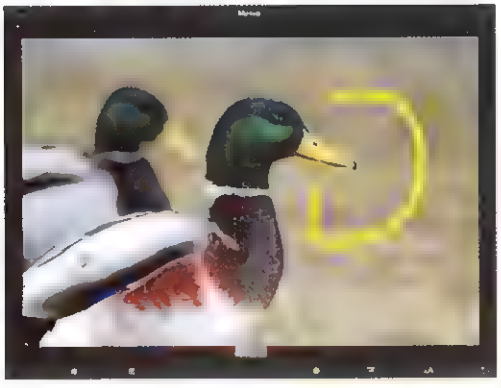


Markup is so called because it enables you to mark up images with annotations and other elements. It's a pretty neat and handy little feature that you may not know about as it's not actually that obvious that it's even there.

Step 2: Finding Markup

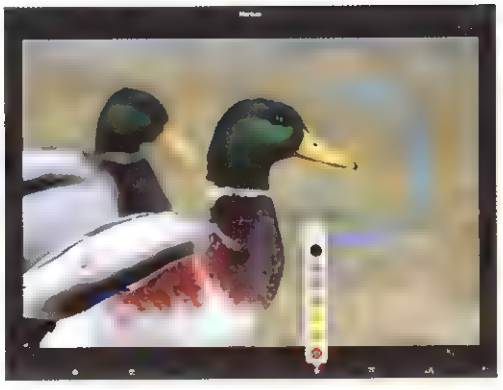
The Markup feature is tucked away so there's a good chance you may not even stumble across it. To access it, open an image and tap the Edit button. Tap the button that looks like circle with three dots in it and then tap Markup.

Step 3: Free Draw



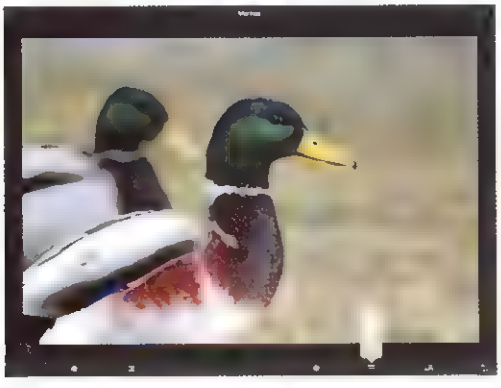
All the controls are along the bottom of the screen beneath the image. The first is Free Draw and enables you to draw in freehand over the image with your finger. Tapping it toggles it on and off. When it's highlighted in blue it's on.

Step 4: Ink Colour



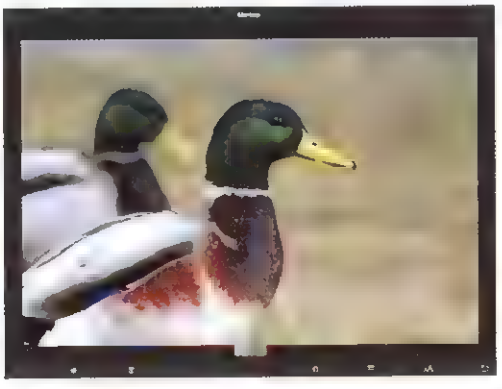
You can change the ink colour by tapping the coloured circle. This brings up a palette of eight swatches. Tap the one you want. You can change the colour of anything you've already drawn by selecting and then choosing a new colour in the same way.

Step 5: Line Thickness



You can choose from three thicknesses of line for your drawing. Tap the button with three lines next to the colour icon and then choose from thin, medium or fat. Again you can change existing line thickness in the same way.

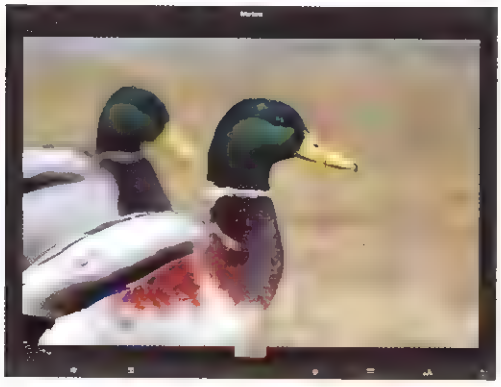
Step 6: Drawing Lines



This is where it starts to get a bit cleverer. Try to draw a straight line freehand. Inevitably it will be a bit wobbly but notice when you finish a couple of buttons appear. Tapping the right one straightens your line. Tap the left to leave it as it is.

Editing Images In Photos – Markup (continued)

Step 7: Drawing Shapes

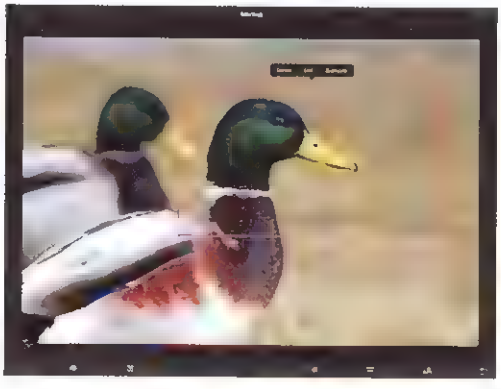


The intelligent drawing feature doesn't just work for straight lines. Try drawing a circle, a triangle, a square, an oblong and even a star. It works for all of these. Just draw the shape roughly and then tap the icon when it appears.

Step 8: Stretch And Move

When you select a shape, drag markers appear on it. You can use these to stretch or shrink it. If it's a straight line you can drag the central point to turn it into a curve. Place your finger in the shape and drag to the whole thing.

Step 9: Edit



When you tap on your line or shape, a pop-up menu appears. If you tap the Edit option you can add text. If you've drawn a shape then the text will appear inside it. If you've drawn a line it will be at the end. It makes more sense when you try it.

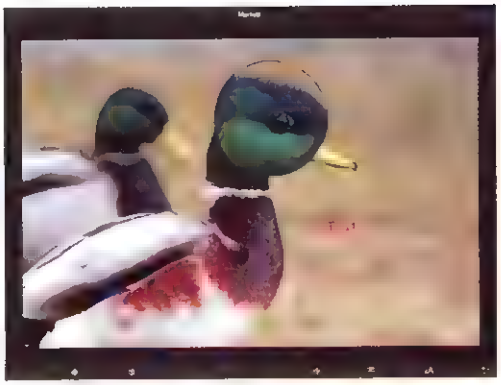
Step 10: Delete And Duplicate

The other two options that appear when you tap the line or shape are Delete and Duplicate. Delete removes it, Duplicate adds another identical shape which you can then manipulate independently in exactly the same way.

Step 11: Magnifying Glass

The magnifying glass is for highlighting parts of the image. Tap the button to place a magnifying glass on the image. Use the blue button to adjust the size and the green button to change the zoom. You can place more than one magnifying glass.

Step 12: Add Text

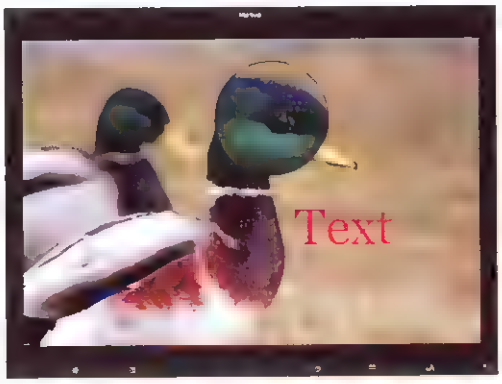


You can add text by tapping the Text button. A text box will appear on the image. Tap and hold then drag to move it about. Tap on the text itself to bring up the keyboard and make the box wider by dragging the blue dots.

Step 13: Format Text

To format the text, tap it to select the text box then tap the button with a small 'A' and a large 'A' and the text format window will appear. Drag the slider to change the size, choose a font and select how you want the text justified.

Step 14: Undo, Save And Discard Changes



If you make a mistake, the Undo button is on the right of the toolbar. You can undo as many steps as you want. To save your changes, tap Done at the top of the screen. To discard them all, tap Cancel to return to normal editing.

Adobe On iPad

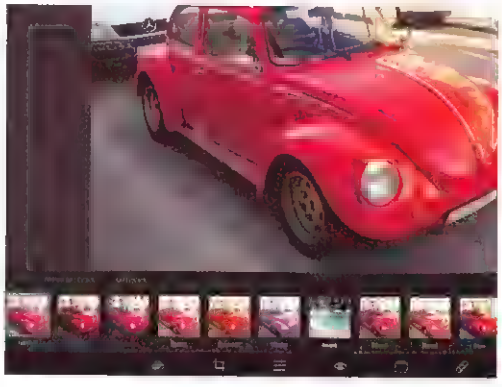
No other software company is more synonymous with art, photography and design than Adobe. Photoshop has for years been the benchmark for all image-editing software. Along with Illustrator and InDesign it's part of every art professional's arsenal. Adobe has released a suite of apps for the iPad that harness and simplify many of Photoshop and Illustrator's features with little or no loss in quality. For basic photo editing you've got Photoshop Express which lets you enhance and improve your images with a basic set of editing tools. Then there's Photoshop Mix and Photoshop Fix which bring a few more interesting and advanced features to the table. See an object in an image that you don't like? Just tap it and it's gone. We have tutorials for all of these, as well as the drawing app Draw, and we've taken a look at all the other important apps in the Adobe's iPad range that you might want to try.

"No other software company is more synonymous with art, photography and design than Adobe"

Photoshop Express

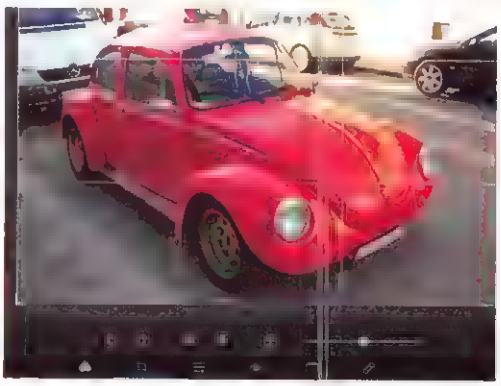
Photoshop Express takes Adobe's ubiquitous image editor and chops it down to a few essential features that are powerful but quick and easy to use.

Step 1: Looks



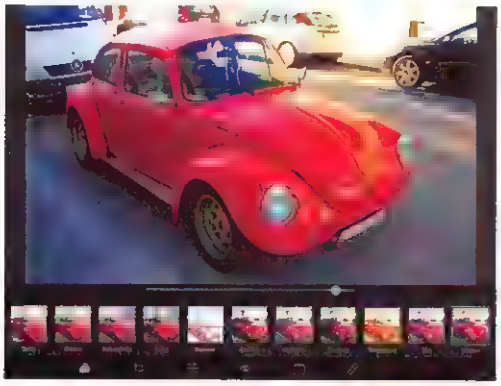
These are basically filters that adjust the colours and brightness of the image for various effects. A slider below the image controls the intensity of each filter and you can create your own by going to My Looks and signing into your Adobe account.

Step 2: Crop



In the Crop tools menu you can also rotate and flip the image, and choose from a range of pre-set crop ratios. You can pinch to zoom in and out in any of the views, which enables you to crop into exactly the right part of any image.

Step 3: Enhance

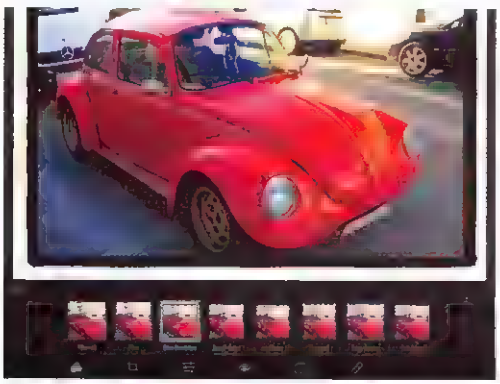


Enhance offers various image enhancements including sharpening and noise reduction. Select any of the options then use the slider below the image to adjust the intensity until you get the effect you're looking for.

Step 4: Red Eye, Frames And Heal

The next two controls are Red Eye and Frames. Red Eye removes the red-eye effect from photos of people or animals while Frames offers various framing effects for the image. Use heal to remove blemishes or small elements with a single tap.

Step 5: General Controls



At the top right are the general controls. The Undo and Redo arrows are self-explanatory; the wand optimises the image while the next toggle enables you to switch between the original and edited image to compare.

Step 6: Edit Across Adobe Apps

Tap the Adobe Creative Cloud icon to seamlessly edit the image across other Adobe apps. You'll need to have the apps downloaded and be signed into your Adobe account to use this feature, but it makes life a lot easier.

Photoshop Fix

Photoshop Fix is a simple but powerful app that comes with several easy-to-use tools that enable you to edit and improve images.

Step 1: Open New Image

To get started you need to open an image. To do this, tap the 'plus' symbol on the left-hand side of the screen and then select the source of the image. For example, if it's stored locally on your iPad, tap On my iPad, and tap the image to open it.

Step 2: Crop

The editing options appear in the panel across the bottom of the screen. The first one is the Crop tool but it does more than simply enable you to crop the image down. Tap it to open the Crop menu in which a new set of tools becomes available.

Step 3: Flip And Rotate

The three tools on the left of the panel are pretty clear. Rotate 90° rotates the image clockwise. Keep tapping to rotate it in 90° intervals. Flip H flips it horizontally to give you a mirror image while Flip V flips it vertically, turning it upside down.

Step 4: Free Rotate

Below the image you'll see the bottom of a graduated wheel. This enables you to rotate the image up to 45° in either direction. The angle of rotation is displayed at the bottom of the picture in the centre. The image automatically scales when you rotate.

Step 5: Crop Options

To crop the image tap Free then drag the corners of the highlighted box to the part of the image you want to crop. The crop options enable you to crop with set ratios. Tap 'X' to discard changes and 'Tick' to save changes.

Step 6: Adjust

The adjust option allows you to play with various light and colour levels. Tap the one you want to adjust, and then move the small circle along the graduated line beneath the image to make the necessary adjustment. 'X' to cancel, 'Tick' to save.

Photoshop Fix (continued)

Step 7: Liquify

This where things start to get a bit more fun. The Liquify options enable you to add some weird effects to images. They can be particularly grotesque when applied to faces but you can get interesting results from all kinds of images.

Step 8: Warp

Warp has the effect of subtly stretching parts of the image. Place your finger on the image and swipe to create the warp effect. You can exaggerate the effect by lifting your finger and swiping again in the same direction from the start position.

Step 9: Swell

Swell creates a fish-eye effect. Tap on the screen where you want the effect and a circle with a cross in the middle will appear. Slide your finger towards the cross to squash the selected area and away from the cross to expand it.

Step 10: Twirl

Tap the part of the image you want to apply the effect to and a circle will appear with a cross at the centre. Now make circular motions clockwise or anticlockwise to create the swirl effect. The more you move your finger, the more swirly it gets.

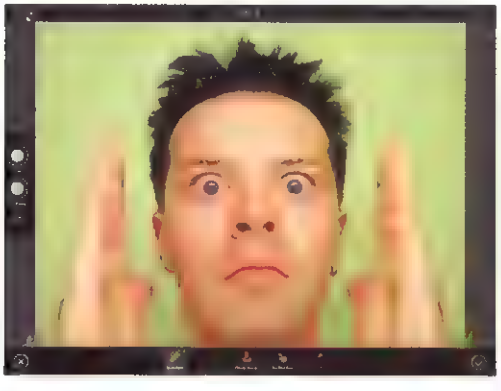
Step 11: Reconstruct

Reconstruct enables you to reverse the effects you've applied but it's more than just a simple undo function. Select it and hold your finger on any adjusted part of the image to see it undo in real time. This can be used to further enhance effects.

Step 12: Face

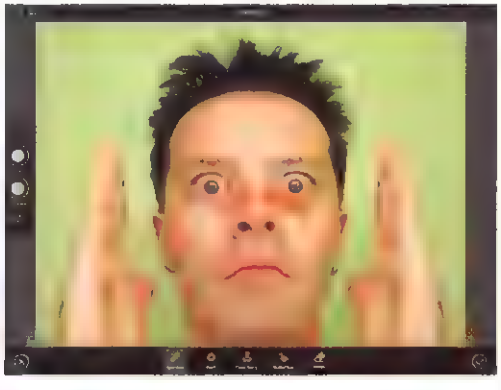
Select the option (face pics only, obviously) and markers will appear on the forehead, nose, eyes, cheeks and chin. Tapping each of these brings up sliders that enable you to create some very strange looking faces!

Step 13: Healing



Ever take a bad photo of yourself? We all have, so the Healing toolset is going to come in very handy for a lot of people. Want to look your best in your Facebook profile picture? Big spot ruining the family portrait? No problem.

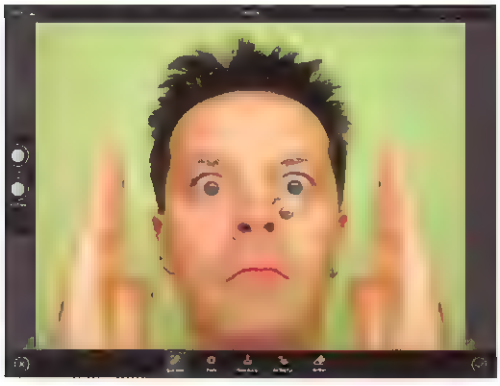
Step 14: Spot Heal



Spot Heal enables you to remove small blemishes by simply tapping them. To remove larger marks or elements, you can 'colour them in' with your finger. It also works for removing objects from photos.

Photoshop Fix (continued)

Step 15: Patch



The Patch tool will be greyed until you 'colour in' an area with your finger. Colour an area then select the Patch tool. Put your finger anywhere on the image and the part you touch will be replicated in the selected area in a similar shade.

Step 16: Clone Stamp

The Clone Stamp replicates one part of the image on another. After selecting the tool, tap anywhere on the image to replicate the selected area. The larger the area you rub over, the more of the selected area will be replicated.

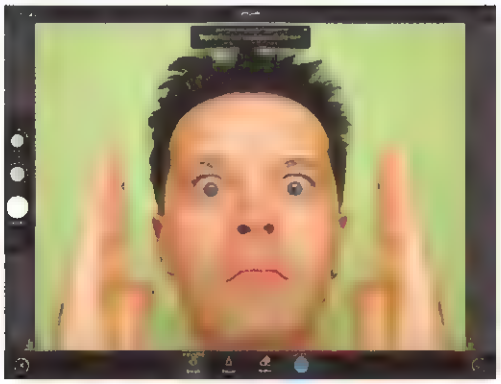
Step 17: Fix Red Eye

This one couldn't be much more self-explanatory. If you have a photo with red eye, just tap Fix Red Eye and that's all you have to do. The red eyes will disappear right in front of you and that's literally all there is to it!

Step 18: Restore

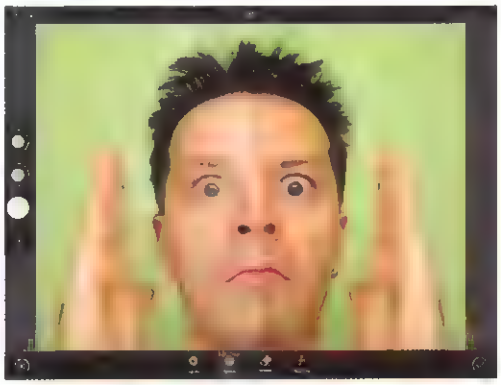
Restore enables you to restore parts or all of the image to their previously saved state. Just select the Restore tool then rub your finger over the image to put things back as they were. It's useful if you only want to undo some of your edits.

Step 19: Smooth



The Smooth function is a great tool for improving face pictures. Just select it and rub your finger over the face to remove all discolouration and minor texture blemishes. You don't even have to worry about accuracy. Amazing results in seconds.

Step 20: Light



These tools enable you to add definition to light and dark parts of the image. Select light and rub light areas or dark and rub dark areas. If you want the to do the whole image automatically, just tap Structure. The more you tap it, the greater the contrast.

Step 21: Colour

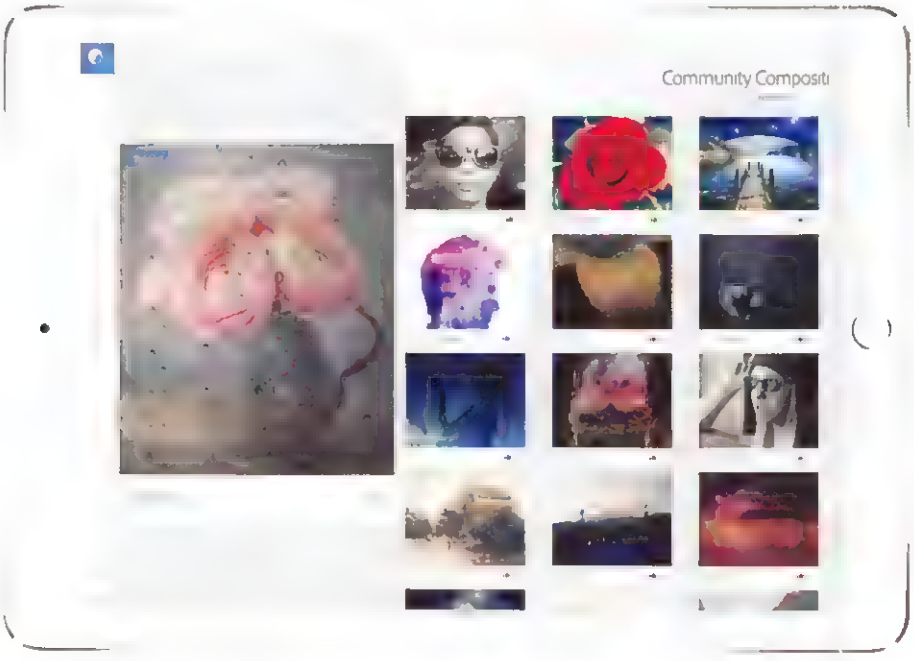
Colour works in a similar way to the Light tools. Rubbing areas enables you to enhance or bleed out the colour, or you can tap Pop and Photoshop Fix will automatically adjust the colours in the image to what it finds to be optimal levels.

Step 22: Paint, Defocus And Vignette

The final three options are probably the least interesting. Paint enables you to paint straight onto the image, Defocus adds a soft focus effect while Vignette gives and old-style curved fuzzy border to the image.

Photoshop Mix

Photoshop Mix is packed with great features. It enables you to mix images, add layers and perform tasks not previously possible on the iPad via Adobe Creative Cloud.



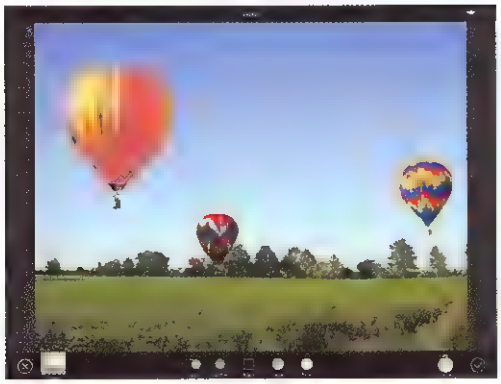
Step 1: Crop And Adjust

Photoshop Mix's main control panel is along the bottom of the screen with Crop and Adjust the first two options. Crop enables you to trim your images down while Adjust lets you play with various colour settings for different effects.

Step 2: Looks

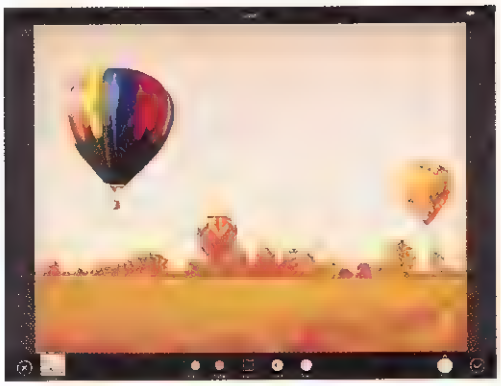
The Looks option can create some very cool effects. At first glance, it seems like just a basic filter with various options to choose from. Tap one to select it and the filter is instantly applied to the image, but there's more to it than that.

Step 3: Add Selective Filter



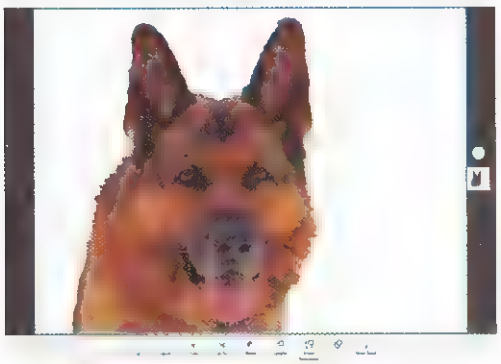
You can choose to apply filters only to certain elements of the image. After tapping the desired filter, tap the Smart button to the right of the screen then colour in the area of the image to which you want to apply the filter by rubbing your finger over it.

Step 4: Invert The Selection



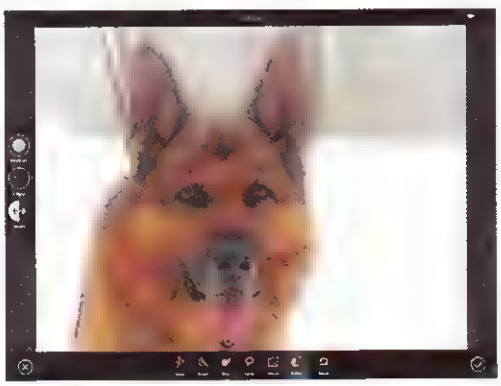
If you want to apply the effect to the rest of the image, tap the Invert button. This applies the selected effect everywhere except the area you highlighted. Experiment to see what you can do with it; the results can be quite dramatic.

Step 5: Cut Out



Cut Out enables you to cut out a particular part or element of the image. Select the Smart tool to automatically detect edges or choose Basic to have complete freedom. When you finish, tap the tick and the rest of the image will disappear.

Step 6: Smooth Edges



Some of the edges of your cut-out will probably look a bit rough, so tap Refine and this brings up a few different options to soften and neaten up the edges so it doesn't look so obvious that the image has been cut out.

Photoshop Mix (continued)

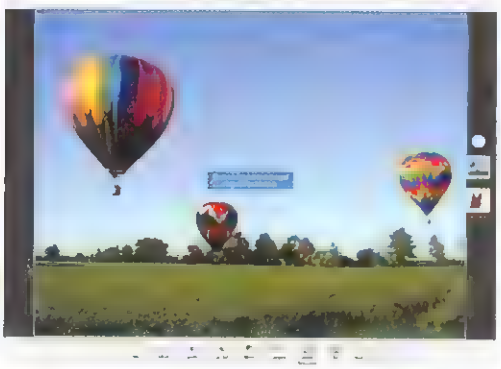
Step 7: Invert The Cutout

You can invert the image by tapping the Invert button. An inverted cut out displays the rest of the image with the cut out section missing. It's sometimes easier to cut out the smaller area and invert depending on what you're cutting out.

Step 8: Add Layer

Photoshop Mix enables you to add up to four additional picture layers, giving a total of five for you to work with. To add a layer, tap the 'Plus' button on the right of the screen and then choose another image from those you have stored.

Step 9: Blend

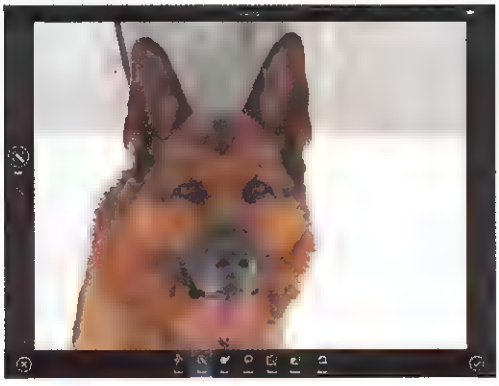


The new image will open on top of the existing image. The simplest way to combine the images is via the Blend option. You can choose different blend effects and opacity which enables you to see the original image through the new one.

Step 10: Move And Resize The Layers

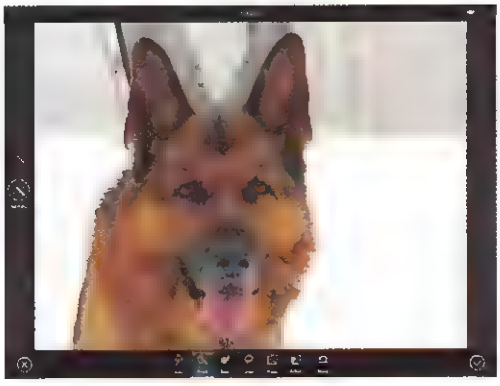
Each layer can be moved and manipulated separately. To select a layer just tap it. You can then drag it around to a different position or pinch to make it larger or smaller independently of the other unselected layer or layers.

Step 11: Cut Out Subject



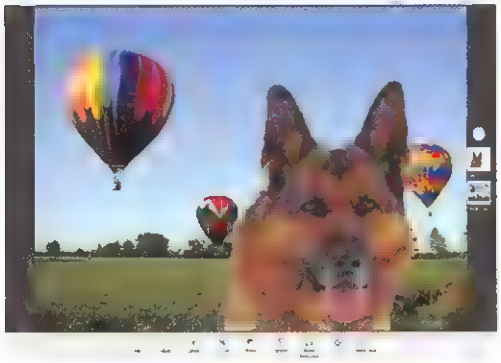
The most practical and common use of layers is adding objects and items to images. Select the image with the subject you want to use and tap Cut Out. Use the Smart tool to cut out the subject from the background of the image.

Step 12: If You Make A Mistake



Even using the Smart tool, it's possible to go over the edge of the subject and pick up some background in your cutout. Don't worry if this happens. Toggle the Add/Subtract button to Subtract and rub the unwanted background to remove it.

Step 13: Feather Edges



Your cut-out will most likely look very separate from its new background. You can blend it in better by tapping Refine and then Feather and then moving the slider until the edges blend more naturally with the background.

Step 14: Hide Layer Icons

You can turn the visible layers on and off while you're working with individual layers. To do this, just tap the button in the top right of the screen that looks like a stack of paper. It's a toggle so tap it to see the other layers and tap again to hide them.

Photoshop Mix (continued)

Step 15: Adjust Layer Positions

You can move the layers around separately or together. Tap the cut-out to select it then drag it around. Tap again anywhere on the image to select all layers. When all layers are selected, tap the background to select it and drag it as required.

Step 16: Rotate Images

You can also rotate both image layers by holding two fingers on them and moving them in a circular motion. This will enable you to perfectly place your cut out items into the new image. It works really intuitively.

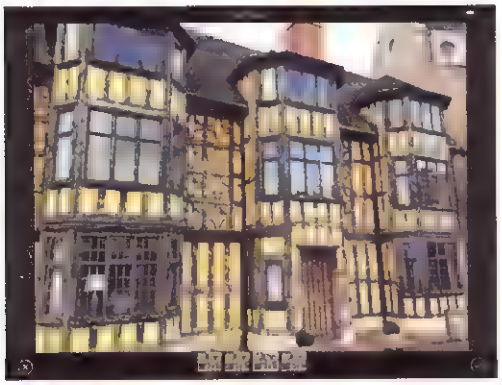
Step 17: Cloud Functions

An awesome feature is the ability to perform certain functions in Adobe Creative Cloud. Some are too processor-intensive for the iPad, so it sends the images to the Cloud where servers perform the process and send the image back.

Step 18: Upright

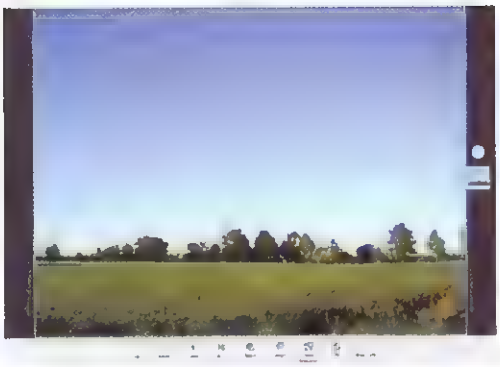
The first of the Cloud processes is Upright. This feature analyses images for any slight tilt and adjusts it. It works very well for buildings and landscapes. The Cloud will return three alternative versions so you can select the best one.

Step 19: Shake Reduction



The second option that requires the help of the Cloud is Shake Reduction. If you have a shot with blur, either from movement or not holding the camera still enough, Shake Reduction will remove it and turn it into a crystal clear image.

Step 20: Fill



Fill also uses the Cloud as it's very processor hungry. It enables you to remove items from images even with complicated backgrounds. Rub over the item you want to remove and tap the cloud button. All Cloud processes will take a few moments.

Step 21: More Tools

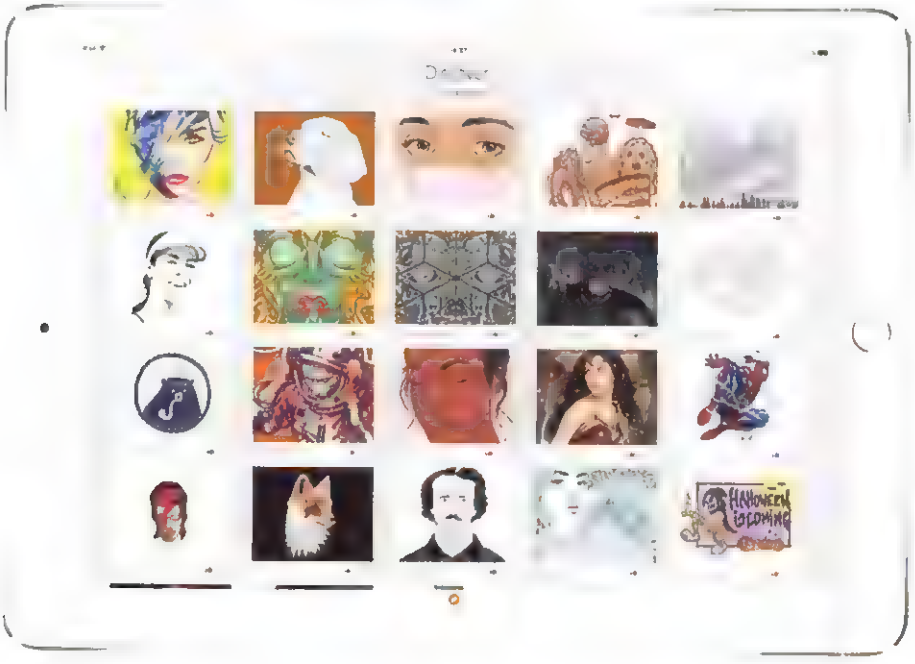
Selecting the More Tools option enables you to pull in functionality from other Adobe apps including Liquify and Healing from Photoshop Fix. Check the tutorial on Photoshop Fix to learn more about it.

Step 22: Save And Share

All your changes are saved locally but if you want to save to Adobe Creative Cloud, Facebook, Dropbox or any of the other usual options just tap the Share button at the top of the screen and you'll find them all there.

Adobe Draw

Draw from Adobe is a deceptively powerful tool that enables you to paint, sketch and create vector images with high level zoom and multiple layers.



Step 1: Start A New Project

To open a new project and start using Draw, select the Work tab at the bottom of the screen if it's not already selected (it will be if this is the first time using the app), then tap the Projects window and choose a blank project.

Step 2: Select A Format

You'll then be prompted to select a format for the project. The app comes with lots of standardised format options split into three categories – normal, Digital Illustration and Print. Swipe across to see more and tap the one you want.

Step 3: Choose A Brush

There are five brush styles and an eraser on the left of the screen. Tap the brush you want to use to select it. You can immediately start drawing with it or tap it again to bring up the brush customisation panel.

Step 4: Customise The Brush

You can change the size of the brush by holding a finger on the Size button and dragging up and down. Opacity works the same way with the current opacity indicated as a number from 1 (invisible) to 100 (completely opaque).

Step 5: The Colour Wheel

To change the currently selected colour, tap the Color button to bring up the colour wheel and tap anywhere on it to select the colour you want. You can then change the brightness using the slider below the wheel.

Step 6: RGB And Other Colour Options

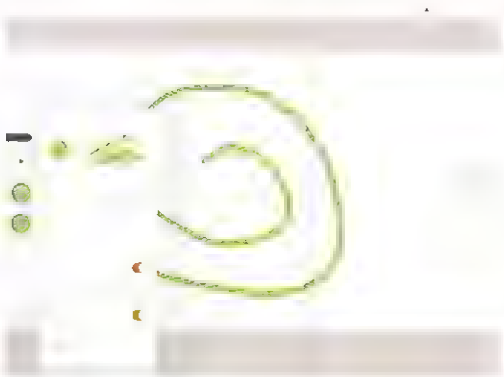
To choose colour via RGB settings, tap the grey lozenge-shaped button and then tap RGB and set the sliders to to the desired values. You can save the current colour by tapping the '+' button. Saved colours appear in My Library.

Adobe Draw (continued)

Step 7: Colour Matching

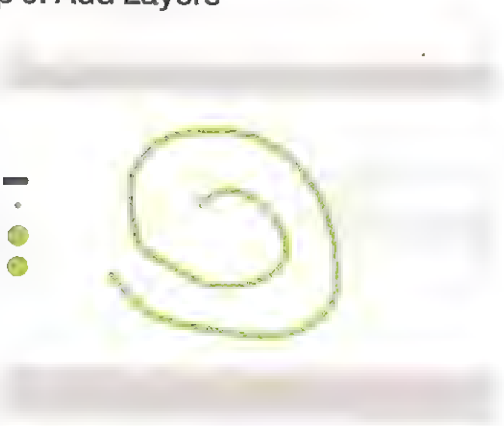
You can colour match any colour on the canvas by holding and dragging the Color button onto it from the brush panel. This brings up the Eyedropper tool. If you hold your finger on any colour on the page it will change to the selected colour.

Step 8: Brush Settings



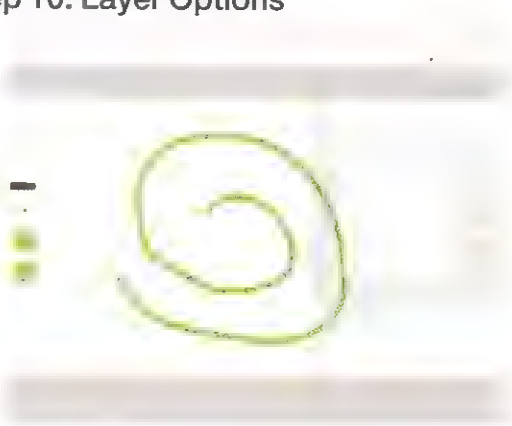
The icon at the bottom of the brush options panel brings up the Brush Settings that enable you to tweak each brush style even more. The preview window at the top of the panel shows the effect of each slider in realtime.

Step 9: Add Layers



Adobe Draw makes working with layers very easy. To add layers, tap the plus symbol on the right and then choose a Draw or Image layer. All current layers appear down the left of the screen. Tap a layer to select it.

Step 10: Layer Options

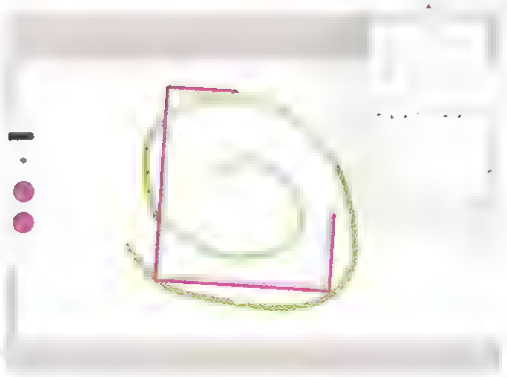


Tap a layer once to select it and start working on it. If you tap a layer that's already selected it brings up the Layer Options. You can adjust the opacity using the slider, change the blend mode, transform, duplicate or delete it entirely.

Step 11: Gestures

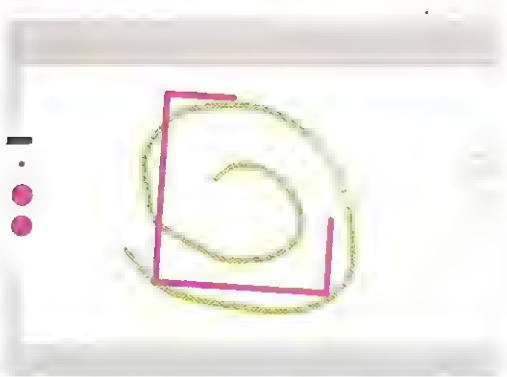
Several gestures are supported to make things more intuitive. Two finger swipe left and right are Undo and Redo respectively. Pinch zooms, move the canvas with two fingers. You can fill a solid shape with the current colour by holding your finger in it.

Step 12: Shapes And Stamps



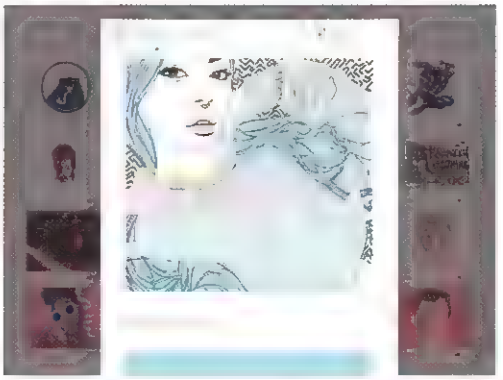
The button with a triangle and a circle at the top of the screen brings up the Shapes window. This lets you add various predrawn shapes to the canvas. Select a shape, drag the outline to the desired position then trace round it to fill in the line.

Step 13: Manipulating Shapes



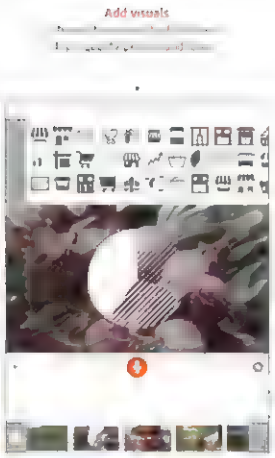
Before filling in the shape you can manipulate it. Pinch to make it smaller or larger. Rotate it using two fingers in a circular motion. Distort it horizontally and vertically by holding the double arrow button and dragging up, down, left and right.

Step 14: Discover Other People's Work



You can browse and rate images created by other users. Close your project and select the Discover tab at the bottom of the screen and then just tap any image to select it, rate it and follow the creator to see more of their work.

Adobe Apps



Adobe Capture CC

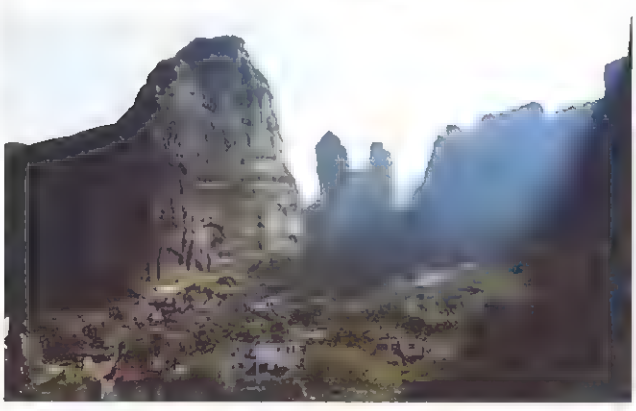
Price: Free
Developed By: Adobe

A highly tactile app that let's you take any image from your iPad camera and turn it into a pattern, theme, brush or even vector graphic, so you can use it in your creative project, in other Adobe software packages and apps such as Adobe's own Photoshop, Illustrator, Comp, Premiere, Dreamweaver, After Effects and Sketch apps. It's an amalgamation of four other CC apps, namely Color, Brush, Shape and Hue, only all under one icon rather than a messy four. As well as images that you take yourself, you also have immediate access to millions of Abode Stock images from within Capture, meaning the only limit is your imagination and what you want to do with it. As with all Adobe apps, you need to sign into your account to get the full cloud experience and share your works with the other apps (and desktop software). It's an essential app for anyone working in visual design; you could see a wall, a flower, a dog, even, then turn its shape, colour or pattern into something much more special as part of your project. It's won several awards and is a big hit in the art and design community.

Adobe Spark Video

Price: Free
Developed By: Adobe

Previously known as Adobe Voice, Adobe Spark Video is an ingenious little app that lets you make very professional-looking videos with very little effort or design skill needed, and it isn't entirely unlike PowerPoint. A big app among people who make marketing videos, business pitches, crowdfunding videos and school projects, its very simple step-by-step interface makes it a doddle to use. You start off by adding your own voice track, one line at a time, then you add icons (from over 25,000) and photographs (either your own or from the millions of stock images), and you select a soundtrack. Once all the ingredients are in the pot, it'll then turn the whole thing into an animated video for you. You also get to pick colours and fonts to make it as personalised as you wish, and then share it via the usual social media suspects (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) or just embed it on your own website if you have one. It's the companion app to the desktop software Adobe Spark, and runs in perfect unison with the bigger version if you want to dive deeper into its features.



Adobe Lightroom

Price: Free
Developed By: Adobe

A titan of a mobile photo-editing app, Lightroom might lack the extensive pixel-editing features of regular Photoshop, but it's a fantastic and easy-to-learn way to manage your workflow from photographing to exporting. Like a lot of Adobe apps it's best when synched up with its desktop big brother version (done through the Creative Cloud). A big update recently made it possible to edit images in their Raw image format, an image in its purest form that's not had any compression and is usually much bigger than when squeezed into things like JPEGs. You can make adjustments locally by selecting to apply Exposure, Brightness or Clarity to either the whole photo or just a segment, but if you're after professional results you'd be best off with the desktop version and using the iPad app as your "in the field" snapper and workflow manager. It's worth keeping in mind that Raw images are usually pretty huge in size, and can eat a smaller iPad's internal storage up pretty quickly, but thankfully the Cloud functionality lets you upload them quickly so you can free space up.

Adobe Creative Cloud

Price: Free
Developed By: Adobe

This is the mother app for all things Adobe, and it's from here you'll have full access to all your files, so you can manage, transfer, sync and store them to your heart's content while on the go. You'll obviously need a subscription to Creative Cloud, but with that, this mobile functionality comes free of charge so you'd be mad not to have it. It comes with support for Adobe Mix compositions and Adobe Fix projects, and a smart UI means you can list all your assets by type, be they text, templates, models, materials, patterns, animations or lights, and you can keep a constant eye on libraries that you have followed from here. There are more than a dozen Adobe apps that all feed into here, making this the centralised location for all things Adobe iOS. It's very much designed with the collaborating team in mind, so multiple people can work on shared assets at once, and when push notifications are enabled you'll get feedback when anyone leaves a comment. You can get a free basic Creative Cloud account for free with 2GB storage, but you'll need to pay for the bigger flashier membership.

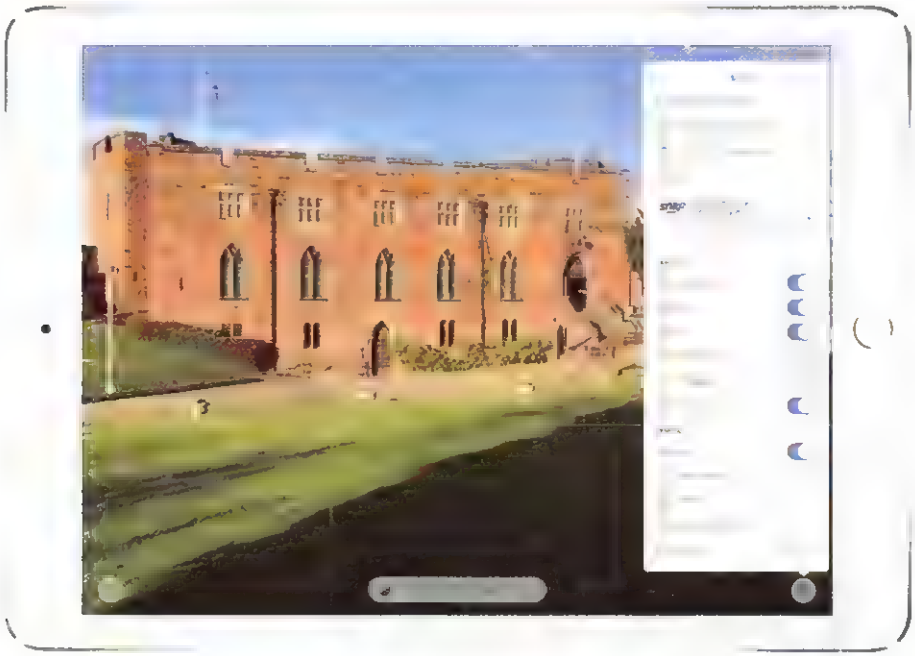
Cameras

The Camera app that comes with iOS (the default camera installed on your iPad) has lots of cool features, such as Pano for panoramic shots, and various other settings. However, it lacks the flexibility and control that more serious and professional photographers require, which is why you may wish to look at alternative camera apps if you really want your iPad photography to pop. The App Store has a wide choice of alternative cameras for you to try out, and we have tutorials for two of the very best it has to offer. Camera+ and ProCamera are both excellent, far superior to the basic iOS camera app, giving you far more control over focus, exposure and more. We have detailed tutorials on both of these, that explain everything you need to know to start snapping like a pro. We also round up more of the best camera-based apps for you at the end of the section.

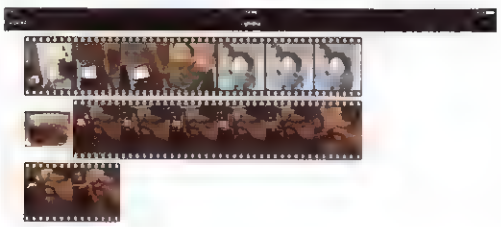
"The App Store has a wide choice of alternative cameras for you to try out, and we have tutorials for two of the very best it has to offer"

Camera+ For iPad

Camera+ has long been regarded as among the finest iOS camera apps, far superior to the default one. The iPad version comes with loads of great tools for improving your photos.



Step 1: Lightbox



When you open the Camera+ app you're taken to Lightbox, which is where the app stores images. It's basically a staging area from which you can select and edit photos before saving them to the Photos app. We'll look at it more closely later.

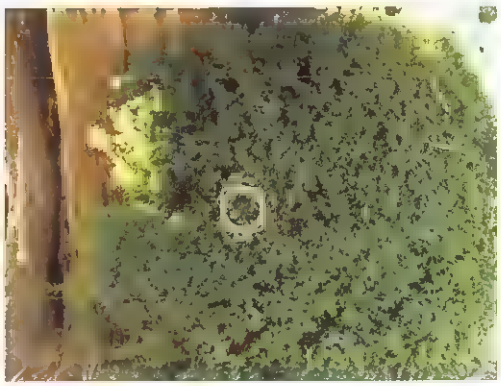
Step 2: Start The Camera

First of all, let's get into the camera app itself and see what it's all about. In the bottom left of the screen you'll see a circular blue button with a camera icon. Tap this to go to the main Camera+ viewfinder screen.

Step 3: Focus And Exposure

By default, it's set to autofocus. To manually set an object as the focus point, tap it in the viewfinder. A purple box will appear over the image and in a moment or two, the app will focus on the object. This also sets the exposure.

Step 4: Separate Focus And Exposure



You can set focus and exposure separately if want. Tap the 'Plus' symbol in the corner of the box and a round exposure icon appears in the box. You can then drag this around separately. Alternatively, touch two fingers on the screen.

Step 5: Set Focus And Exposure

You can now move the focus and exposure markers separately. If you place the exposure marker in a darker area the exposure will automatically be increased to lighten the image, and vice versa if you place it in a brighter area.

Step 6: Exposure Compensation

When the Exposure marker is active, the Live Exposure control panel appears at the bottom of the viewfinder. Tap the leftmost button to bring up the Exposure Compensation slider and adjust it as required.

Camera+ For iPad (continued)

Step 7: Lock Focus, Exposure And White Balance

The Live Exposure control panel also enables you to lock the Focus, Exposure and White Balance levels at any time. Just tap the corresponding buttons to save them to the current level. The settings can be toggled.

Step 8: Digital Zoom

On the left of the screen is the digital zoom slider. Slide it to the top for maximum zoom or to the bottom for no zoom. We don't recommend using it though, as digital zoom creates noise in the image.

Step 9: Shooting Options

Just above the Camera icon on the right of the screen is a small cog. Tap this to bring up some additional shooting options. You can set three different image ratios, although you can always crop your images afterwards.

Step 10: Stabiliser

To use the stabiliser, tap it to activate it. When you're ready to take the shot, tap the shutter button but the camera won't take the photo until the iPad is sufficiently still. An indicator shows green, yellow or red indicating severity of movement.

Step 11: Timer

The next option is the Timer, which is pretty obvious. Tap it and the Timer countdown appears on-screen. By default, it's set to 5 seconds. Tap to select a 5, 15 or 30-second delay. Tap the shutter button during the delay to cancel the shot.

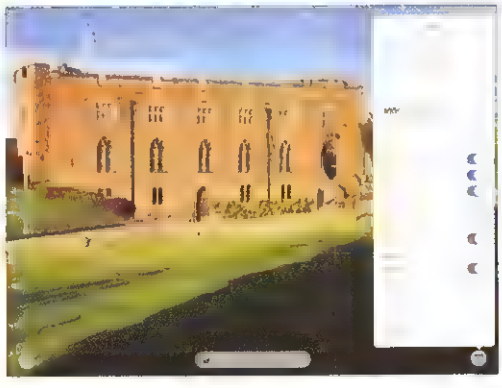
Step 12: Burst

The Burst feature enables you to take pictures in very rapid succession by holding down the shutter button, enabling you to get to get great sequence shots. Pictures taken in burst mode are of lower quality than standard shots.

Step 13: Take A Picture

When you're happy with all your settings you can take the shot by tapping the shutter button with the camera icon on it on the right of the viewfinder. You can also use the volume up and down buttons if you prefer.

Step 14: Options Menu



There are more options available via the options menu accessed by tapping the button in the bottom right of the screen. From here you can toggle off the viewfinder grid and zoom among other things to clear up the viewfinder.

Camera+ For iPad (continued)

Step 15: Horizon Level

Horizon Level is a useful feature found in the options menu, though it is turned off by default. Activate it and a horizontal line appears in the middle of the viewfinder that tilts with the camera, so you can ensure your shots are perfectly level.

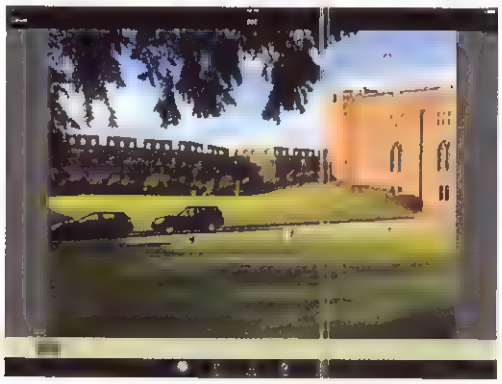
Step 16: Back To Lightbox

As mentioned previously, photos taken in Camera+ aren't saved straight to the Photos app (unless you choose to do so in the settings menu), but to Lightbox. To return to Lightbox, tap the button in the bottom left corner of the viewfinder.

Step 17: Image Options

In Lightbox, your images are presented in the form of a camera film roll. When you tap an image, five options appear. You can delete it, enlarge the preview, start to edit it, share it or save it to the Photos app on your iPad.

Step 18: Edit Images



To start editing an image, tap the Edit icon and the image will open full screen with the five categories of editing options across the bottom of the screen, the first of which – Scenes – will be selected by default.

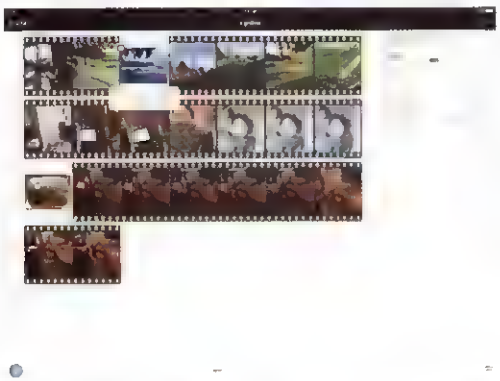
Step 19: Scenes, Crops, Filters And Frames

These four options a very simple. Scenes provides a set of preset optimisations to choose from. Crops enables you to crop the image as required, Filters offers loads of cool filter effects and Frames lets you add a frame to your image.

Step 20: The Lab

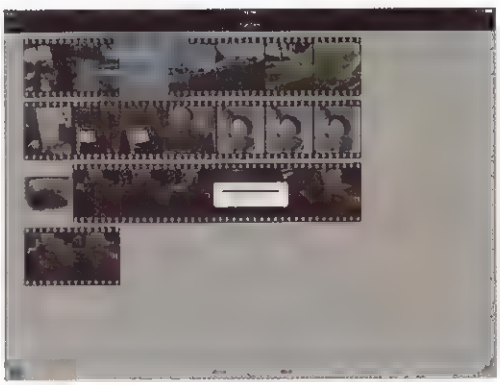
The Lab option is where you go to really customise your images, with a suite of manual tools. Each one has its own set of slider controls. You can adjust almost every aspect of the image here from correcting tilt to fine-tuning the exposure.

Step 21: Edit Info In Lightbox



Tap Done to save your edits or Cancel to discard them and you'll be returned to Lightbox. When you tap on any image in lightbox, you can see details of all your edits to that image in the window on the right of the screen.

Step 22: Save Images To Photos



When you're happy with an image, tap on it and tap the Save button that appears to save it to Photos. This removes it from Lightbox which means neither Lightbox nor Photos get cluttered up with unwanted images.

ProCamera HD – Camera

ProCamera HD is another rock solid camera app that any photographer needing more power than the standard camera will love.

Step 1: The Control Panel

On startup, the app takes you straight to the viewfinder screen Conveniently, you can place the Control Panel on the left or right of the screen depending on which works for you. Hold your finger on the cross at the bottom and drag it.

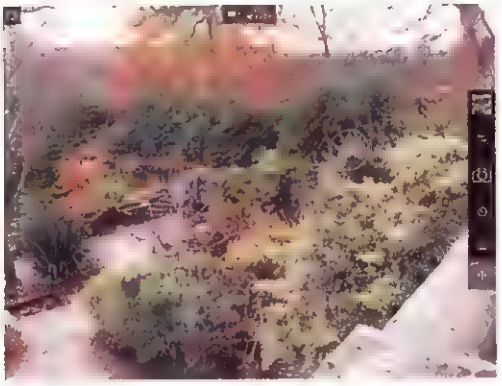
Step 2: Focus And Exposure

Similar to Camera+, the focus and exposure settings start out on auto by default. Tap anywhere in the viewfinder to set a focus and exposure point manually. An indicator will appear on the screen when you do so.

Step 3: Split Focus And Exposure

Again as with Camera+, you can split Focus and Exposure if you want to. The yellow circle is Exposure and the blue square is Focus. Just place a finger on them and drag one off the other. You can then place them independently.

Step 4: Lock Focus And Exposure

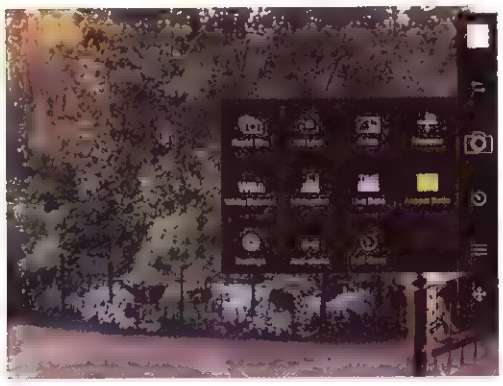


You can lock both Focus and Exposure in their current position at any time by holding your finger on the indicator for a few moments. A padlock icon will appear in the indicator when it's locked. Drag it to unlock it.

Step 5: Auto Focus And Exposure

To relink Focus and Exposure tap anywhere on the screen other than on either of the indicators To return to autofocus mode, just tap in the centre of the screen. A blue square will flash up briefly to let you know you've done it.

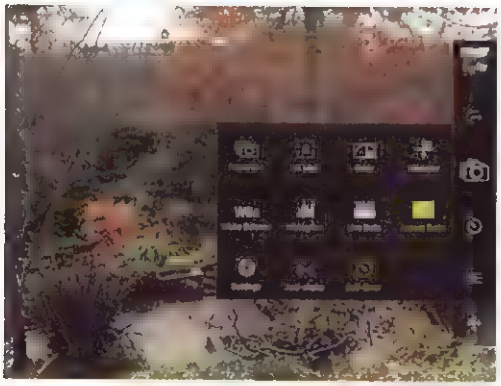
Step 6: Options And Settings



The Menu button in the Control Panel brings up a whole bunch of custom options to give you more control over your shots. This is also where you access the Settings, the most important of which we'll look at shortly.

ProCamera HD – Camera (continued)

Step 7: Rapid Fire

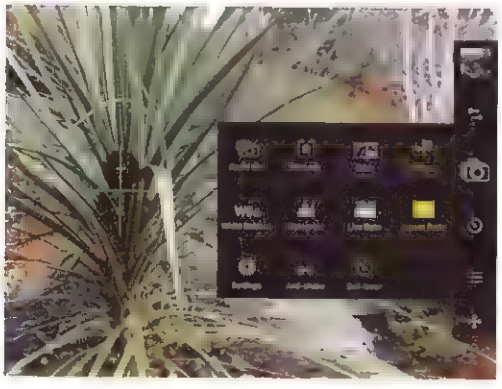


When you select Rapid Fire, the shutter button changes to look like several stacked on top of one another. Hold your finger on it to take multiple pictures one after the other. Unlike Camera+, ProCamera takes them at full resolution.

Step 8: Grids

There are three viewfinder grid options to help you get the perfect composition for your shots. Keep tapping the Grids button in the Control Panel menu to cycle through the available options or no grid at all.

Step 9: Tiltmeter



Tiltmeter is there to help you get your shots completely level. When selected a cross appears in the centre of the screen with a circle behind it. It works both horizontally and vertically. Use the calibrations to find the right position.

Step 10: Antishake

When you select Antishake, a second shutter button appears in the Control Panel just below the main shutter button. Tap this and the camera won't take the shot until the iPad is steady. You can adjust the sensitivity in Settings.

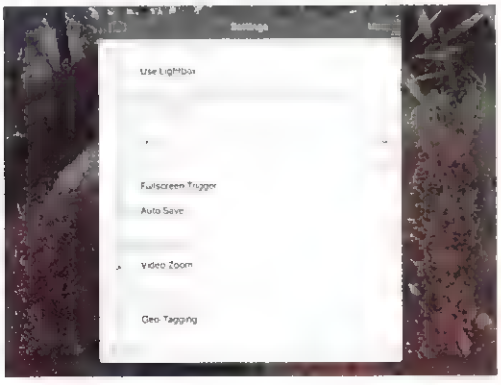
Step 11: Night Mode

ProCamera has a built-in Night mode for getting the best exposures in low-light conditions. To select Night mode, tap the button with two arrows above the Shutter button and select Night from the options that appear.

Step 12: Shutter Speed Options

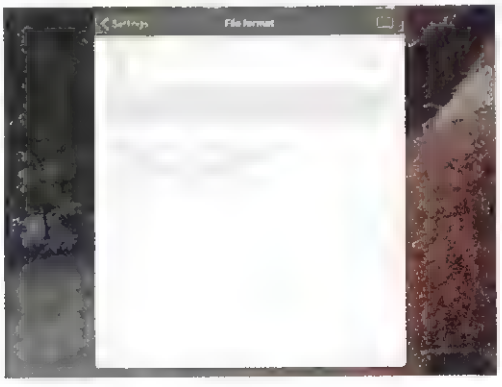
With Night mode selected, tap the menu button and you'll notice three new shutter speed options across the top – 1/8s, 1/4s and 1/2s. The longer the exposure the steadier the camera needs to be. A tripod is recommended for 1/2s.

Step 13: Auto Save



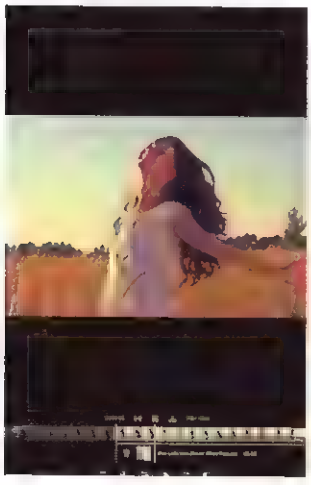
Open the menu and tap the Settings cog then tap Auto Save. This enables you to decide whether to automatically save images to Lightbox or Photos. With Auto Save turned off, you have to save them manually via the preview.

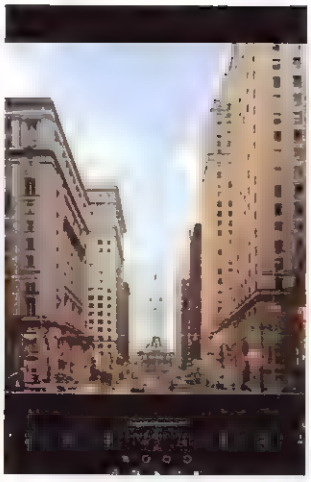
Step 14: Image Quality



Back in Settings, tap the More option at the top then choose File Format. This is where you set the quality of the saved images. Use the slider to select the quality from low to high and choose a file type. TIFF Uncompressed is the highest quality.

Camera Apps

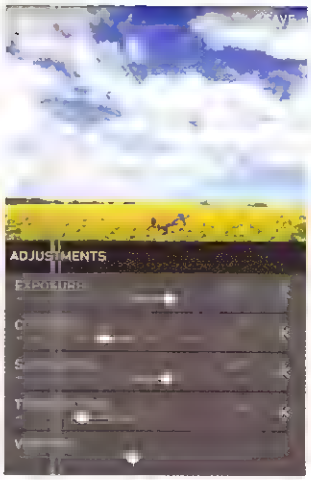




ProCam 4

Price: £3.99
Developed By: Samer Azzam

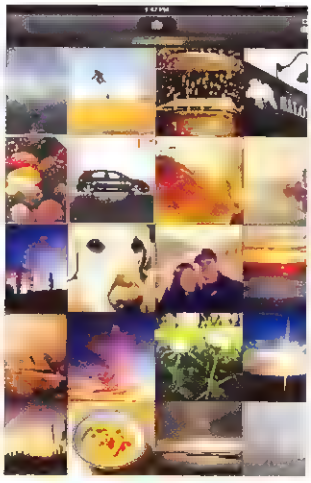
If you want to use your iPad camera to take professional-quality photos, you won't find many apps that are more useful than the superb ProCam 4, by Samer Azzam. It provides a wealth of useful photographic features, emulating the functions of a top-end pro camera. It adds a number of new shooting modes, including Night Mode, Burst Mode, Slow Shutter, 3D Photos, Video, Time Lapse and three-shot HDR, as well as Self-Timer, Anti-Shake, Screen Shutter and Interval shooting. It also offers manual control over exposure, shutter speed, ISO, focus, and white balance controls, scroll and steppers system inspired by high-spec DSLR cameras, and tap location with accurate manual focus assist. Serious photographers will be pleased to hear that it enables shooting in both raw and raw+JPEG modes, for maximum picture quality, and can also save images in the lossless TIFF file format. The features that are available will depend on the model of iPad that you have, with more advanced features restricted to later models, but all users will benefit from improved manual controls. If you take your photography seriously you need this excellent app.



Top Camera 2

Price: £3.99
Developed By: Lucky Clan

The original Top Camera app won multiple awards, and the new second version is even better. It adds even more great features, including five photo modes (Photo (normal and square), HDR, Slow Shutter, Night Photo and Superfast Burst), three video modes (Simple Video with Pause at 30 or 60fps, Slow Motion and Time Lapse), focus box, exposure box with tap-and-hold to lock, manual focus with exposure slider, zoom by pinch gesture or slider, volume button shutter release, image stabiliser, self-timer and even a virtual horizon, a visual levelling bar to help keep your images straight. Meanwhile it removes a number of unnecessary settings so that the camera module just has the basic and most useful modes, reducing on-screen clutter. More importantly, Top Camera 2 also adds a new unified photo and video editor, in which all filters and adjustments can be applied to both photos and videos. It offers nine adjustments: exposure, contrast, saturation, colour temperature, vibrancy, sharpness/blur, shadows, highlights and straightening. It also has a huge library of colour correction filters to improve your photos and videos.



Camera Awesome

Price: Free
Developed By: SmugMug

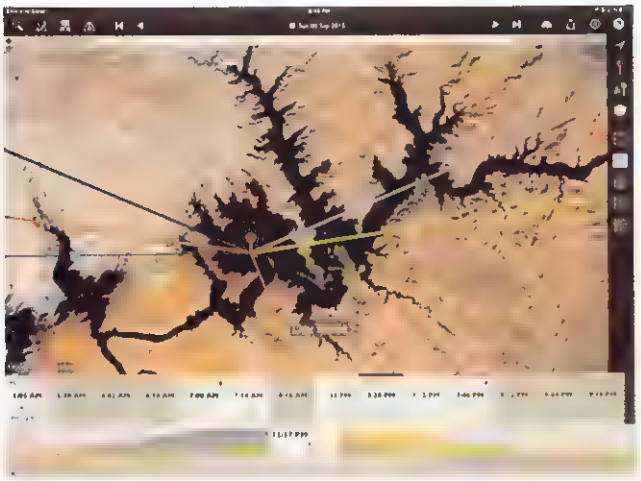
With more than two million downloads in its first week on the app store, a rating as the number one photography app in 55 countries and the top app overall in ten of them, Camera Awesome has been racking up the credentials since its launch. Once you start using it you'll see why; Camera Awesome is, well, awesome! It makes taking brilliant photos on your iPad so easily that you'll probably never want to use a traditional camera again. It offers super-fast shooting, fast and accurate focusing, one-tap picture optimisation to make sure that your photos look fantastic, and a range of professionally designed filters and special effects created by internationally renowned professional photographer Kevin Kubota. It also adds "Video Time Travel", a pre-recording feature that makes sure that you always capture the start of an event even if you're a little late pressing the record button. Once you've taken and edited your photos it also provides one-tap sharing to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, SmugMug, Picasa, Photobucket and Flickr. Trust us; if you want to be known as an awesome photographer, you need Camera Awesome!

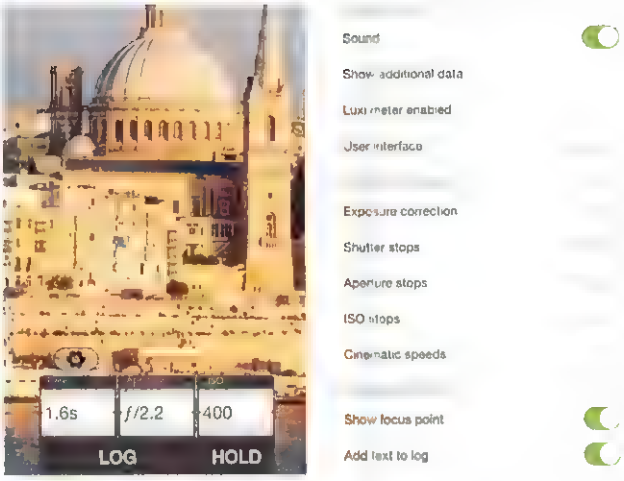
LightTrac

Price: £6.99
Developed By: Rivolu LLC

Although it's not the cheapest of apps, LightTrac offers something very useful for which professional landscape, nature and architectural photographers will be willing to pay a premium. One of the trickiest things to get right in outdoor photography is the lighting. Obviously, you can't move the sun or the moon around in the sky, so you have to time your photography expeditions to get just the right lighting conditions to perfectly illuminate the scene that you want to capture. This is where LightTrac can help. It calculates both the elevation and angle of the Sun and Moon for any date and time, for any place on Earth, and plots it onto a satellite map. Armed with this information, and with an extremely easy to use interface, you can plan your photo shoot several months ahead of time and position yourself at the right spot at the right time to capture that perfect shot. Other features include the ability to save multiple locations and switch between them, and share locations easily via email. It may be expensive, but the time and effort it will save you makes it well worth the price.

Camera Apps (continued)





Photographer's Ephemeris

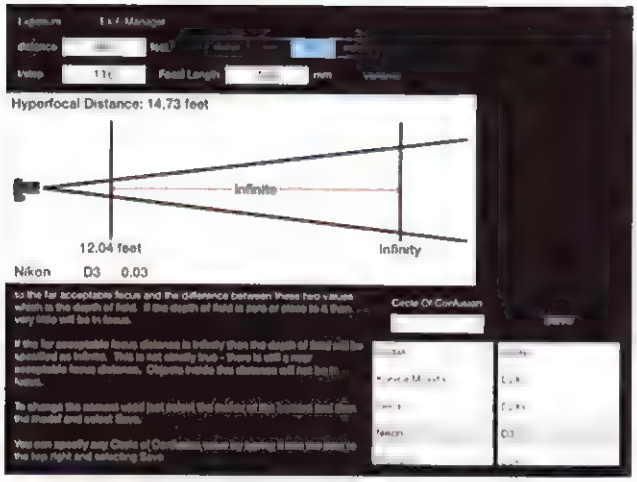
Price: £6.99
Developed By: Crookneck Consulting LLC

The Photographer's Ephemieris, despite having one of the oddest titles of any app on the store, is a very similar app to LightTrac in both function and price. Like LightTrac, it can calculate the position and elevation of the Sun, the Moon and even the Milky Way for any time, date and location on Earth, and show you the results on a satellite map. This is very useful for photographers specialising in landscape, nature or architecture, since it lets you work out the perfect lighting conditions months in advance. It can handle Moon phase and illumination percentage, as well as civil, nautical and astronomical twilight. It offers two topographic maps, and both can be used offline so you can still use it while out of network range. Other features include map autorotation using the compass, shadow lengths displayed to scale on the map, and astronomical events including moon phases, apogee, perigee, solstice, equinox. It has automatic time-zone detection, automatic detection of elevation above sea level, Golden Hour calculation and light pollution overlay. If you do most of your photography outdoors this is one app that you really need.

Pocket Light Meter

Price: Free
Developed By: NuWaste Studios

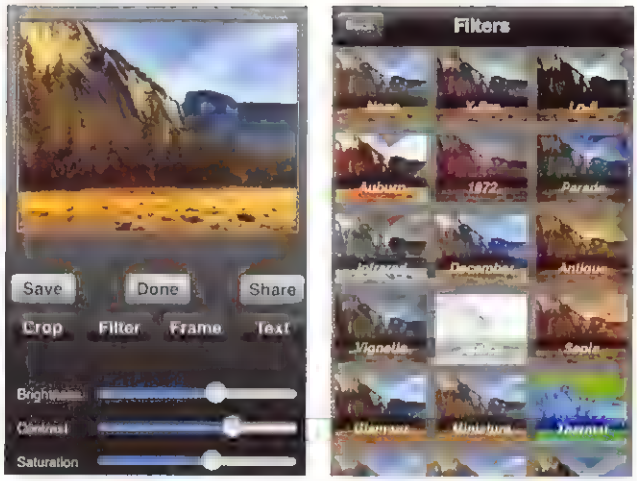
While all modern cameras have a built-in light meter, most professional photographers will prefer to use a separate hand-held light meter, since it provides more versatility and accuracy, especially when dealing with multi-light studio rigs or unusual outdoor lighting conditions. Unfortunately, a good hand-held meter costs a couple of hundred pounds. However, your iPad has a built-in camera that is equipped with an extremely accurate exposure meter, so this brilliant free app uses that camera to turn your phone into a pocket light meter. It has an easy-to-use interface that provides accurate exposure information under almost all lighting conditions, with shutter speed, aperture and ISO settings clearly displayed, and you can switch between settings on the fly. It includes a Lux meter, exposure correction, and can even calculate cinematic shutter speeds for all you budding Spielbergs out there. Settings can be saved at the touch of a button, and the latest version offers improved low light performance. Naturally it can only measure reflected light, rather than ambient, but nevertheless it's a free app that no photographer should be without.



Depth Of Field Calc.

Price: £0.79
Developed By: Essence Computing

One concept in photography that seems to cause a lot of confusion is depth of field. In case you've never heard of it, it's got nothing to do with how far the mud comes up over your wellies. Depth of field is how much of the scene in your photograph is in focus. When you focus on a particular subject, objects some distance both behind and in front of the focal point will also be in focus; it is that distance that we call depth of field, and it's a function of the focal length of the lens and the aperture setting. Accurately calculating depth of field is tricky and time-consuming, but it is essential, especially in portrait and close-up wildlife photography. This handy and remarkably cheap app performs the calculations for you, telling you exactly what distance from your subject will be in acceptable sharpness, letting you concentrate on composition and timing. It even calculates the hyperfocal distance for maximum depth of field, which is a very welcome feature. It includes data for most popular cameras and lenses, and the developers can add new models upon request.



Pro HDR

Price: £1.49
Developed By: eyeApps LLC

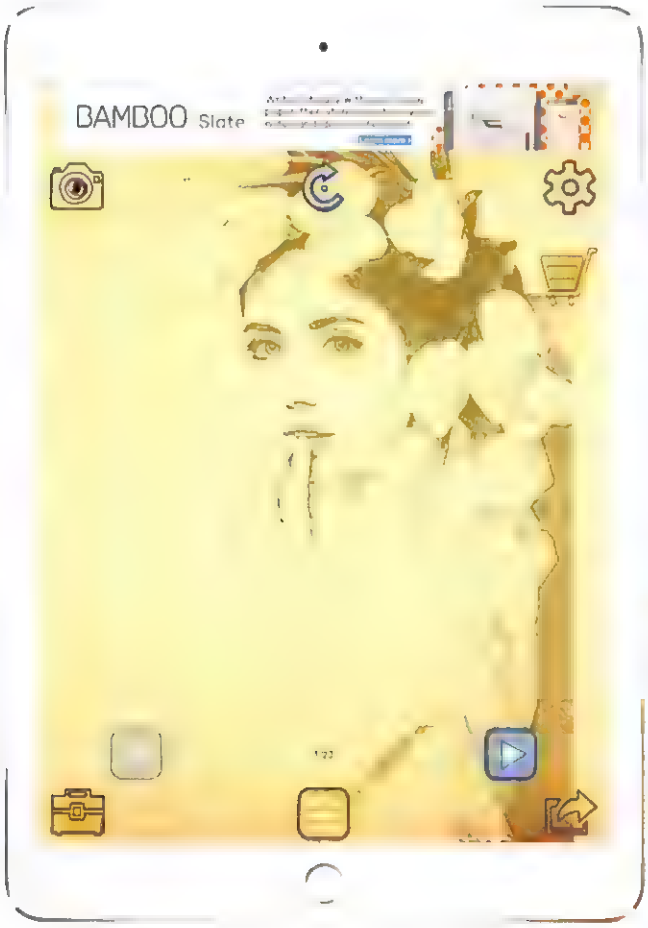
HDR is one of those trendy things in photography that come along every few years, like the fashion for photos that look like they were taken on an old toy camera, or shots of city streets blurred to look like they're tiny models. HDR stands for High Dynamic Range, and it's a way of shooting photos to capture detail in both shadows and highlights by overlapping and merging three or more frames, including over-exposed, correctly exposed and under-exposed frames, into the same image. When used properly in high-contrast situations, such as when attempting to capture a sunset and foreground scene at the same time, it's a genuinely useful technique and can produce stunning results, although like a lot of photographic trends it has tended to become somewhat over-used of late. The most recent iPad cameras include an HDR function as standard, but if you want more HDR functionality and options you'll need an app like Pro HDR. It's easy to use, capturing HDR images automatically with a single tap, and shoots at full 12-megapixel native resolution. It's a cheap app, so why not give it a whirl?

Photo Editing

There are loads of great apps that offer countless interesting ways to edit and enhance your photographs and other images. Adobe has produced a range of brilliant ones that offer a professional level of control. However, if you want to get cool results quickly and with the minimum of fuss, we've picked out a couple of great apps for you to try, and we have complete tutorials over the next few pages. The first is Sketch Face, which enables you to turn photos into beautiful pencil drawings, charcoals and watercolours. There are plenty of apps that do this, but few with the ease and simplicity (not to mention great results) of Sketch Face. We also look at Color Splurge, that gives you the ability to colourise and decolourise any part of an image with a set of simple tools for amazing results in minutes if not less. We also round up a selection of great photo editing apps from the App Store.

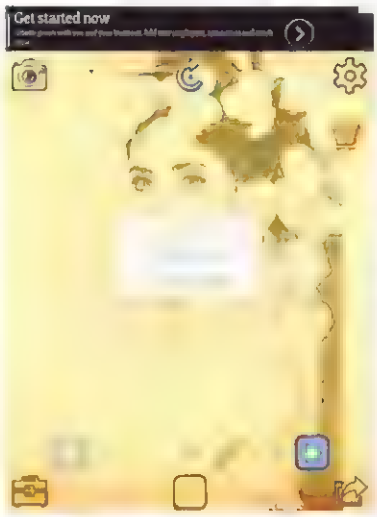
"There are loads of great apps that offer countless interesting ways to edit and enhance your photographs and other images"

Sketch Face



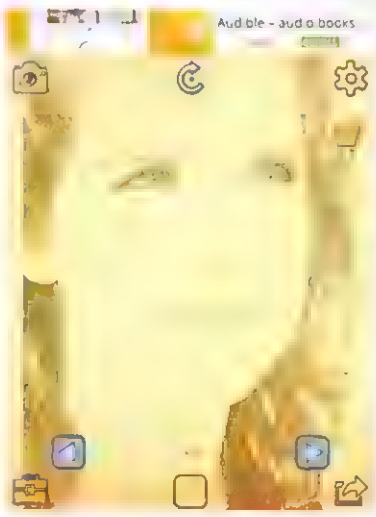
There are lots of apps that enable you to turn your Photos into sketches but Pro Sketch is one of the best – easy to use, very customisable and gives great results.

Step 1: Select An Image



When you load up the app you'll see a sample image in the main window. To choose an image from your camera roll, tap the camera icon in the top left and choose Load From Album then browse to the image that you want to use.

Step 2: Choose An Effect

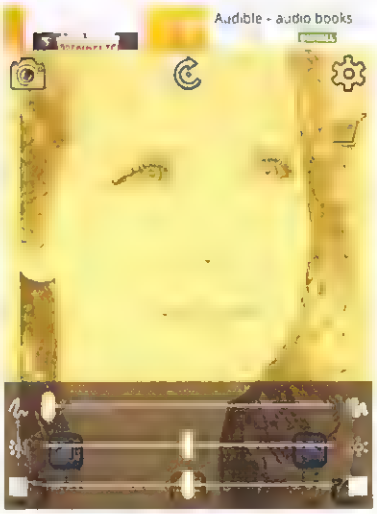


When the image loads, the first effect will be applied automatically. To cycle through all the available effects, tap the blue arrow buttons until you find one you like. If you're using the free version of the app, some will be locked.

Step 3: Choose A Texture

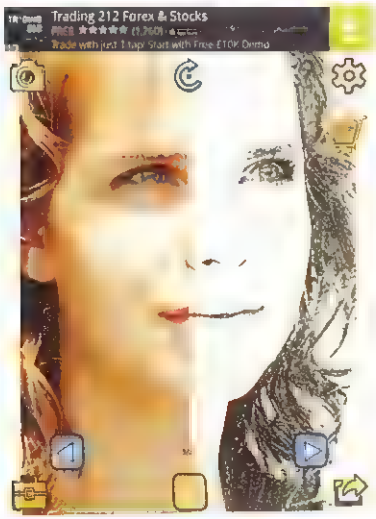
Tap the icon that looks like a suitcase in the bottom left of the screen. This brings up the Texture screen where you can select a texture to form the background of the image. If you don't want a texture, tap the 'X' button.

Step 4: Customise Effects



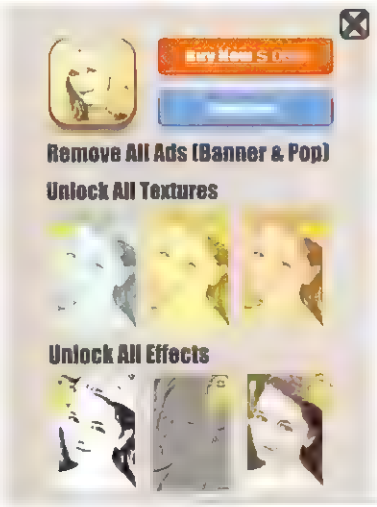
Tap the icon in the bottom middle to bring up a series of sliders that enable you to customise the currently selected effect. These control the weight of the lines, contrast, brightness and you can adjust the opacity of the background.

Step 5: Split Screen



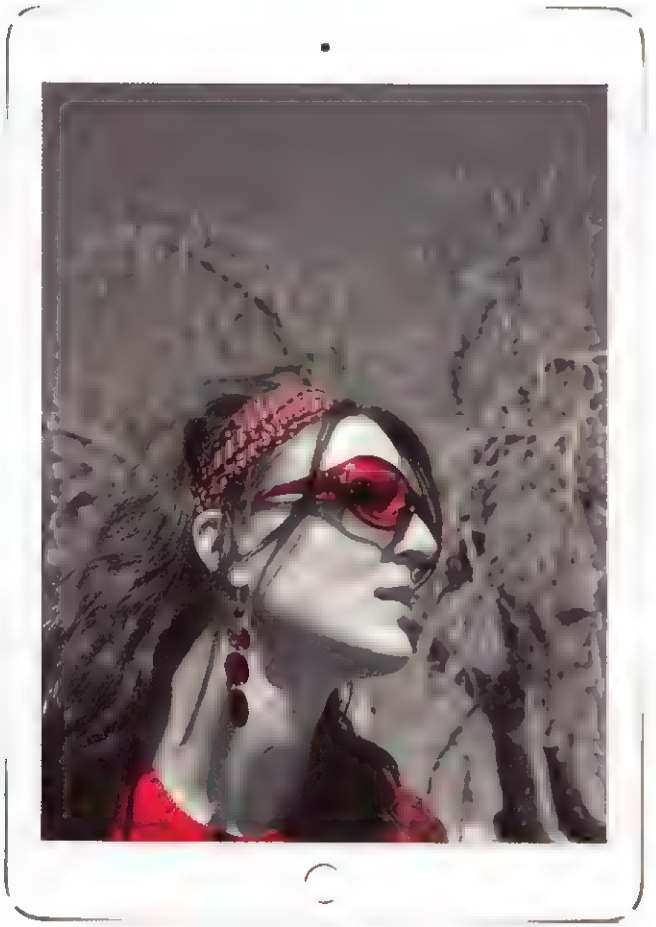
Tap the cog icon in the top right to bring up the Settings screen and select Split Screen. With this enabled, the image is split in half with the selected effect only applied to one side so you can see how it looks next to the original.

Step 6: Share And Upgrade



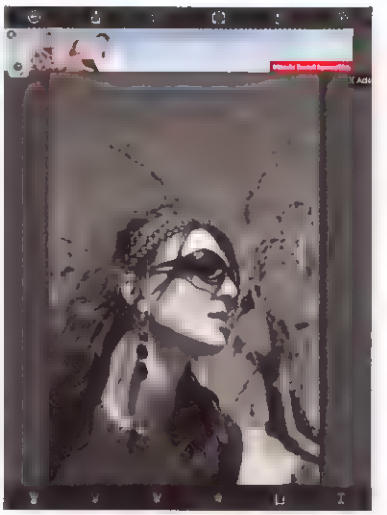
Tap the Share button in the bottom right to save your image to Photos or share wherever you want. Tap the Shopping trolley icon to upgrade to the full version of the app which gives access to additional filters and removes ads.

Color Splurge



Color Splurge is a super quick and easy way to add colour effects to images, simply by painting the areas you want to colourise or decolourise.

Step 1: Open An Image

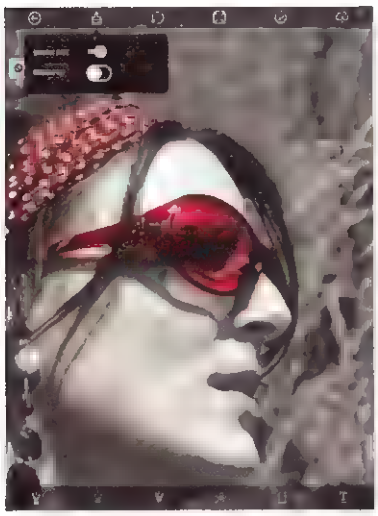


Open the app and tap the '+' symbol then browse to the image you want to use and select it. It will open black and white by default in the main view.

Step 2: Colourise And Decolourise

There are a series of icons across the bottom of the screen. The leftmost is the colourise tool. Tap it and then simply paint over the parts of the image that you want colourise as they were in the original image.

Step 3: Brushes And Zoom

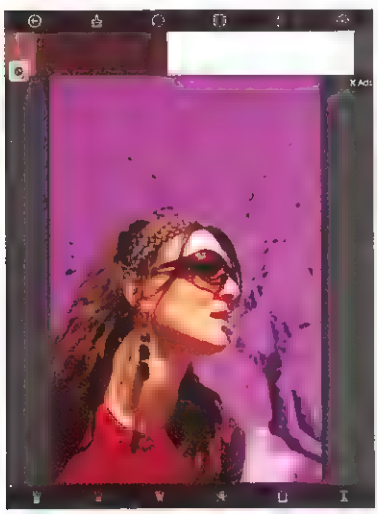


If you need more accuracy you can pinch to zoom in on the image and drag with two fingers to move it around. If you need more precision still, tap the paintbrush icon at the top of the screen and use the slider to adjust the brush size.

Step 4: Filters

Tap the magic want icon at the bottom of the screen to open the filter options. These enable you to add different colour effects to the colourised parts of the image. Swipe across to see all the filter options available.

Step 5: Paint

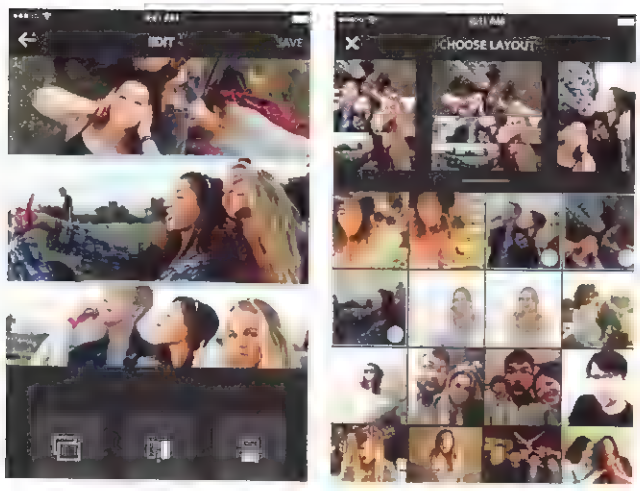


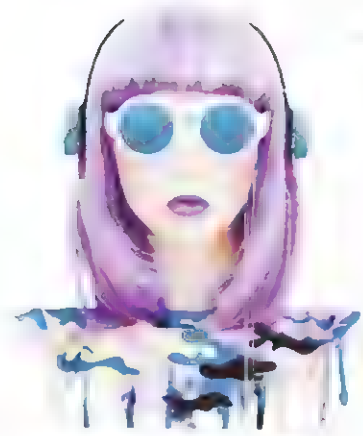
Tap the multi-coloured paint pot icon at the bottom of the screen to open the colour wheel. Select a colour and then you can paint it over any part of the image. The colour goes on transparent so you can still see the detail beneath it.

Step 6: Stickers And Lettering

The frame and letter icons in the bottom right let you add stickers and text to the image, although they look a bit tacky, but they're there if you want them. To save the edited image, tap the cloud icon, choose a resolution and save it or share it.

Photo Editing Apps





Layout From Instagram

Price: Free
Developed By: Instagram

If your dinner is too good to be looked at from just one angle, you want to recreate the opening credits of The Brady Bunch, or you just want to bung up a single collage of photos onto your Facebook feed instead of an album of snaps, this is the app you need, because it allows you to select up to nine photos from your tablet or phone and meld them into one.

Looking to combine loads of pics of one particular person (or even yourself)? There's a handy Faces tab which can pull together images of the people you want. Want to create a montage of spontaneity (even it that involves loads of duck pouts and the same sideways-on v-sign)? Fire up the Photo Booth option, tap it to start a countdown, and pose away: it'll suck in those images and spit out an instant montage. With options to drag, drop, shrink, flip and mirror your images, there are a lot of opportunities to fiddle about and buff your social media presence to a blinding sheen with minimal faff – and yes, you can feed them into Instagram's myriad filters and tools for even more creative collage tomfoolery.

Enlight

Price: £2.99
Developed By: Lightricks Ltd

Billed as the near-as-damn-it equivalent to Photoshop on a phone, this all-in-one pic editor is rammed to the gunwales with filters and effects that can turn your snaps into works of art with a few touches and swipes. Maybe too many filters and effects, as the pic-witch novice can be easily overawed by the extensive range of options. Fortunately, the feature set is laid out in lists, so you'll be able to work out what you want to amend in no time at all. And if you can't, don't worry; there's a wealth of tutorial support on offer. While the app doesn't exactly break new ground, what it does better than anything else is gather pretty much everything you'll need, from simple cropping, colour balance and options to add text and frames, all the way up to Tilt Shift options if you crave that Toytown look, all in one place, helping you to de-clutter your app list and free up memory at a stroke. As a one-stop-shop for photo editing, it's pretty much an essential purchase for the serious social media fiend. But if you're looking for an entry point to serious photo editing after giving up on Photoshop manuals, this could be just the thing to raise your pictoral game.

Afterlight

Price: £0.79
Developed By: Afterlight Collective Ltd

The cheap and cheerful alternative to Enlight, this is perfect for on-the-go pic editing, aimed at those who just want to take the shabbiness out of their snaps without getting bogged down in the technicalities. Not that there isn't a lot of power under the hood: there are 15 adjustment tools, 74 filters, and 78 textures to play with, not to mention a fistful of pre-sets that get the job done with minimal hassle.

If you like framing your shots for maximum effect, you certainly can't argue with Afterlight, because it has boatloads of 'em, from the bog-standard outside variety to a range of arty shapes to fit any mood. And if you want to push your creative boat out even further, there are a swathe of in-app purchases including wallpapers, filters and endless options for both jiggery and pokery.

Downsides? The filters have been criticised by photography experts for being a tad on the mild side, but if you're looking for instant retouches without getting bogged down in masking, layering, healing and all that other technical stuff, this does the job nicely and deserves its mantle as one of the most popular apps of its type out there.

Snapseed

Price: Free
Developed By: Google

If you just want to make your pics look less dingy without putting your hand into your virtual wallet, or you're looking to dabble in the dark arts of photo-editing before investing in something more powerful, then this old faithful could be a good start. In the world of phone apps, this is practically ancient, but a top-to-toe revamp last year has brought it well up to date, and it punches above its weight.

It's a little less intuitive than its predecessor (the initial walkthrough has been replaced with a suite of mini-tutorials), but that doesn't matter, as it now leans heavily on gesture-based editing, where you can swipe to pull up tools. And if you get bogged down in the editing process, don't panic; there's a handy Compare button at the top right of the screen, which lets you peek at your original shot.

Where Snapseed really excels is the ridiculous level of control it puts into your hands, as long as you can handle the steep learning curve. If you can remember how bewildered you were when you first got to grips with Photoshop, and then discovered how to get what you needed out of it, you'll be on very familiar ground here.

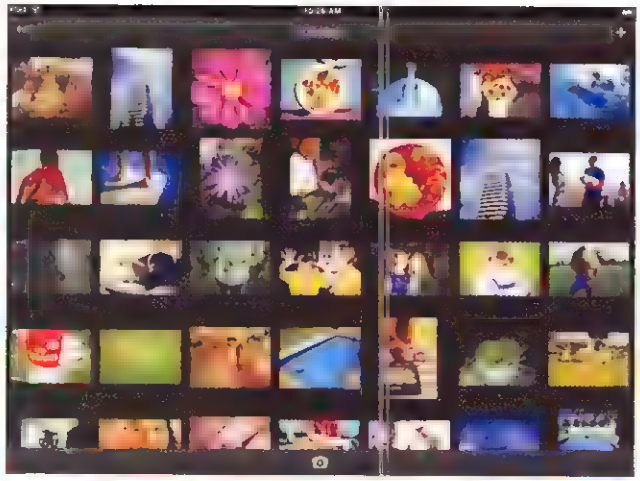
Photo Editing Apps (continued)

Photoblend

Price: Free
Developed By: Derrick Williams

If you want to slap a favourite bit of text over one of your photos with minimal fuss, or just want to see what it would be like to superimpose the face of a gorilla over your sister, this could well be the quick and dirty solution you need. Photoblend does only one thing; it creates a double-exposure image from two separate sources. However, it does that one thing very well, allowing you to merge, morph, mix and meld two separate images from your photo roll (or a downloaded image, or from a range of preloaded images, shapes and text). Could you use it to convince your Friends list that you're hanging out with the Kardashians, or make it look as if you're riding a dolphin? Probably not, but there are a lot of features and functions packed into a free app, including erasers, frames, filters, and options to blend, contrast and brighten to your heart's content.

As it's a free app, you can't use the stock overlays (and there's a modicum of ad-clutter), but it's the perfect in-point for pic editing newbies and could spark an interest in hardcore Photoshoppery.

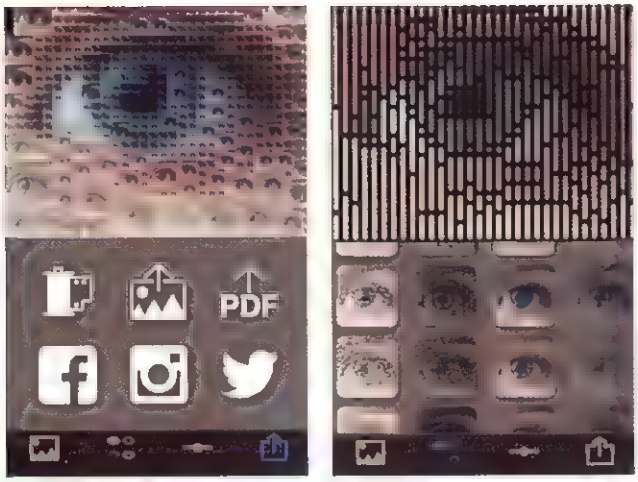


Luminance

Price: Free
Developed By: Subsplash Consulting

Luminance is a great entry-level editing app for people who need to be eased in gently and are a bit worried that they're going to accidentally screw up their precious piccies. It features its own library with iCloud backup, as well as non-destructive editing and cropping, which means that you can't ruin your precious memories while you're editing during a bumpy bus ride.

There is a decent swathe of filters that can add a professional-looking sheen to your snaps, with a wide selection of adjustment options within close reach when you're feeling brave enough to dip in and make minute and precise tweaks. We particularly like the fact that each adjustment has an on/off switch, which allows you to instantly make a change to your image, or get a 'before and after' so you can check if you're not overdoing your amendments. Another good option is its seamless synergy with social media, allowing you to share your creations to Facebook, Twitter et al with minimal fuss. You can automatically back everything up to iCloud, so you can tinker away to your heart's content without second-guessing yourself.



PixelWakker

Price: £2.29
Developed By: Joseph Wrigley

If you want to make the photos of your nan at Christmas look a bit more, well, hallucinogenic, this is right up your alley. A collection of out-there creative effects, PixelWakker won't remove red-eye from your pics or balance out their tone, but it will make them look like bonkers masterpieces of pointillist art.

There are four main effects on offer here: lots of copies of one image shrunk down to create another, recreating an image using big dots (in an old-school newspaper photo style), recreating an image using lines of colour, and recreating an image with the deployment of drops of colour. While that makes it a (very) limited app, the results can be incredible, particularly when you've got used to the settings and know what you're doing.

Best of all, as it's a vector-based app, you can export your images as PDFs and print them out as large as you like. So if you're already comfortable with your go-to photo editing app and are looking to branch out, this is a perfect bolt-on if you're looking to add a bit of arty experimentation to your portfolio.

VSCO

Price: Free
Developed By: Visual Supply Company

It's billed as a 'powerful all-in-one camera, editing and photo sharing app', which make it sound like every other photo app on the market. So what makes this one stand out? Well, for starters, it's a deceptively minimal-looking and easy-to-pick-up app which is actually stuffed to bursting with filters and effects.

It's also nearly impossible to get bogged down in its minutiae. A simple swipe right takes you back to the main menu if you feel you've got in too deep, and the fact that you can take pics directly from the app means you won't be shuffling back and forth between it and the native photo app.

Where VSCO really shows its strength is with the simple things that can give you excellent results before you even apply the filters and modifications, such as being able to set the focus and exposure during your shoot, and a Gridlines option which superimposes straight lines over your viewfinder – so you can line things up perfectly without resorting to the Rotate tool afterwards.

Video Cameras

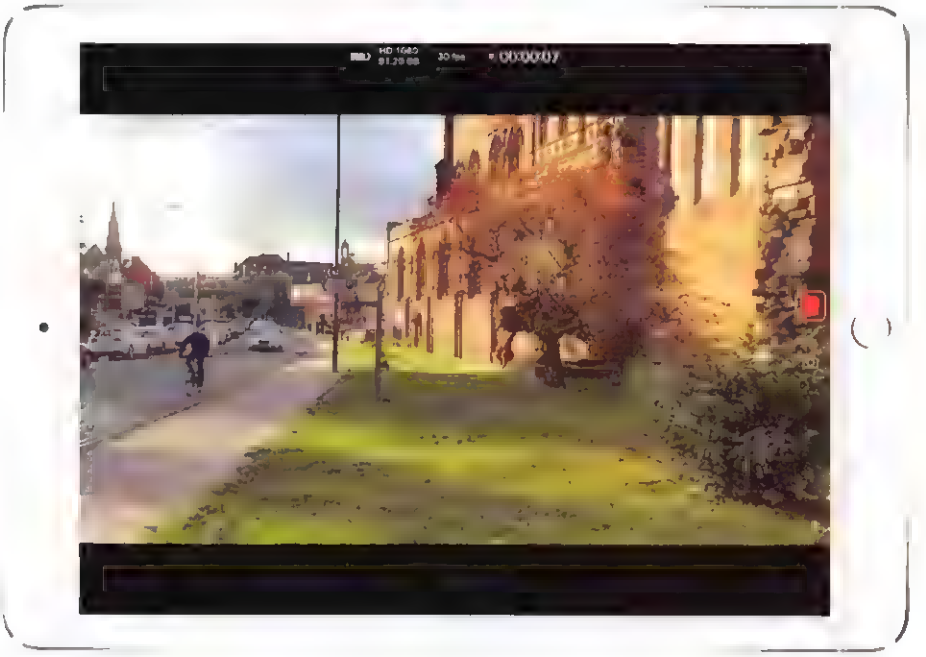
The iPad comes with a video camera built into the standard iOS camera app. It's more than adequate for shooting footage of family holidays and special occasions but, like the standard camera, it lacks some features and functionality that you'll want if you're hoping to shoot better quality, more professional-looking footage. If you'd like a more powerful video camera for you iPad then you need look no further than ProCamera. We've already covered the ProCamera app as a standard camera in an earlier tutorial, but ProCamera also comes with a video camera that's far superior to the one that's included with iOS. In this section, we take a detailed look at using ProCamera to shoot video and making the most of its features.

We also have some general tips for shooting video that will help you when you come to editing them together into something people will actually want to watch.

"ProCamera comes with a video camera that's far superior to the one that's included with iOS."

ProCamera HD – Video

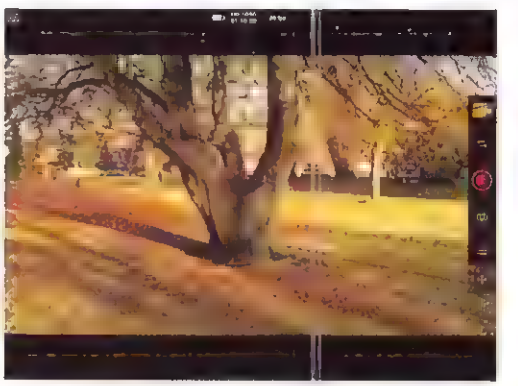
ProCamera HD comes with fully-featured video camera functionality. Here's a brief guide to all the important features and settings you'll want to know about.



Step 1: Select The Video Camera

When you start up the ProCamera app it will be in still camera mode by default. To select the video camera, tap the button with two arrows on it above the shutter button on the Control Panel and then select Video.

Step 2: Focus And Exposure



The focus and exposure settings start out on auto by default. Tap anywhere in the viewfinder to set a focus and exposure point manually. An indicator will appear on the screen when you do so.

Step 3: Split Focus And Exposure

You can split Focus and Exposure if you want to. The yellow circle is Exposure and the blue square is Focus. Just place a finger on them and drag one off the other. You can then place them both independently.

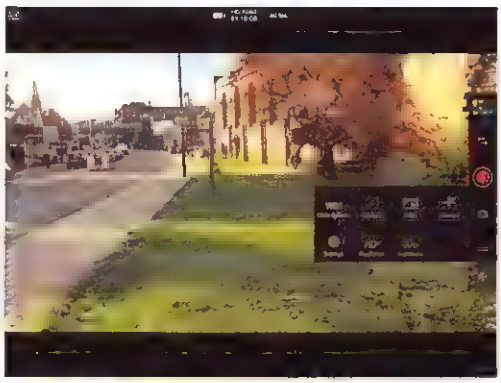
Step 4: Lock Focus And Exposure

You can lock both Focus and Exposure in their current position at any time by holding your finger on the indicator for a few moments. A padlock icon will appear in the indicator when it's locked. Drag it to unlock it.

Step 5: Auto Focus And Exposure

To relink Focus and Exposure tap anywhere on the screen other than on either of the indicators. To return to autofocus mode, just tap in the centre of the screen. A blue square will flash up briefly to let you know you've done it.

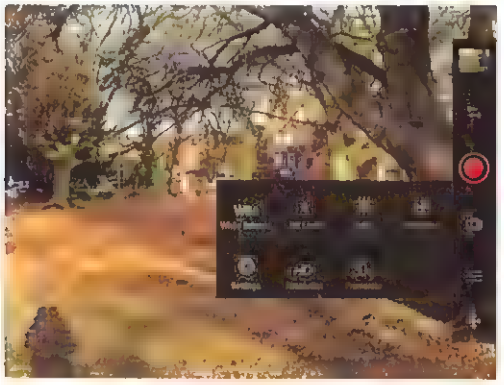
Step 6: Menu Options



Tap the Menu button on the Control Panel to bring up some important options. If you're already familiar with ProCamera's standard camera menu, you'll notice the video camera menu is slightly different.

ProCamera HD – Camera (continued)

Step 7: Tilt And Grid



These options are the same as those found in the standard camera menu. You can choose from various grids to help compositions while the Tiltmeter helps you keep the camera level using a simple indicator.

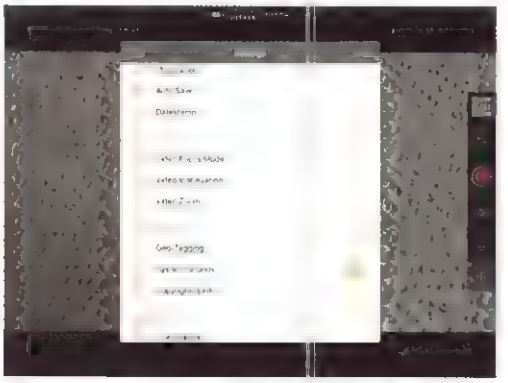
Step 8: Resolution

Resolution is important, obviously because it affects the quality of the video, but also the storage space needed. Four options are available from VGA up to HD Max. Decide how good you really need it and choose the right one.

Step 9: Framerate

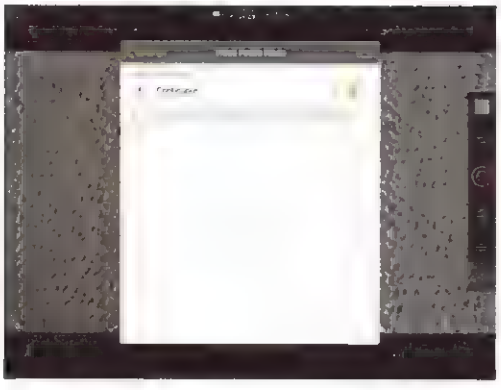
As with Resolution, the higher the framerate, the better the quality of the video, but the larger the file. Higher framerate is essential if you're planning on using the slo-mo feature, otherwise 25-30fps should be fine.

Step 10: Settings



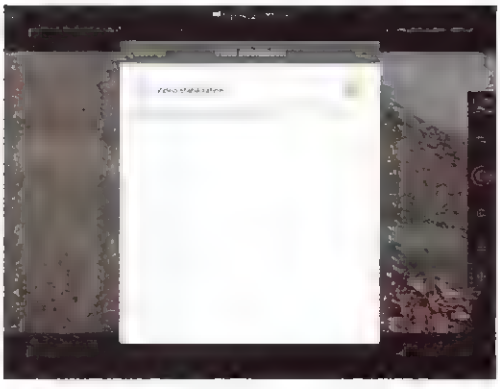
There are some important settings that apply to ProCamera in Video mode. To find them, tap the Menu button in the Control Panel then tap the Settings Cog. Tap More at the top then swipe down to find Video Mode Options

Step 11: Video Focus Mode



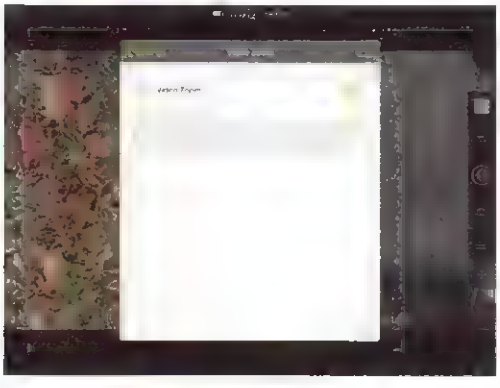
Video Focus Mode is a simple toggle between Continuous and off. If you set it to Continuous, the video camera will constantly adjust focus as you shoot. If you want manual control, make sure Video Focus Mode is off.

Step 12: Video Stabilization



This is a handy option to know about if you're shooting footage freehand without a tripod and you don't want the shot wobbling about all over the place. Turn the option on here to reduce shake when shooting.

Step 13: Video Zoom



The last video option enables you to turn on Video Zoom. When activated, a zoom slider appears in the viewfinder. You can also zoom by pinching. We recommend getting closer to the subject rather than zooming, if possible.

Step 14: Playback

To review your videos, tap the preview image at the top of the Control Panel and choose Camera Roll or Lightbox to find them. Select one and press play. To see it speeded up or in slo-mo, tap the 1.00x button and choose a playback speed.

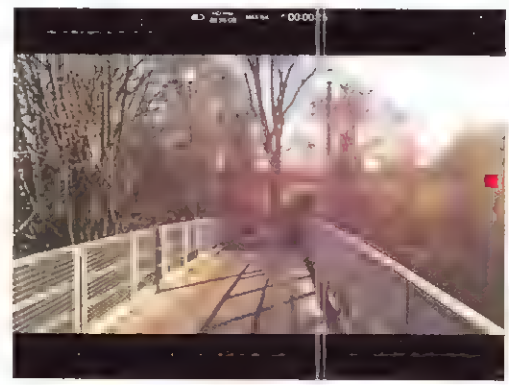
Video Shooting Tips

You can have the best video camera in the world, but if you don't get the basics right, your footage isn't going to be very good. Keep these simple tips in mind whenever you're shooting video.

Shoot In Landscape

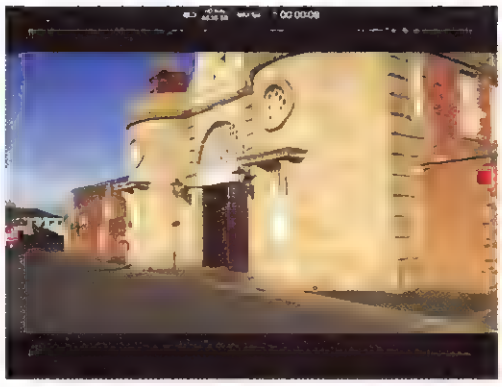
This might seem desperately obvious, but it's surprising how many people still shoot video in portrait orientation. Watching portrait videos is horribly claustrophobic and it simply doesn't work in movies, so don't do it!

Shoot Short Bursts



If you're planning on cutting your footage together into a movie (see the video editing section) then you'll get better results with lots of shorter videos than a few long ones. When there's not much happening, stop recording!

Shoot From Different Angles

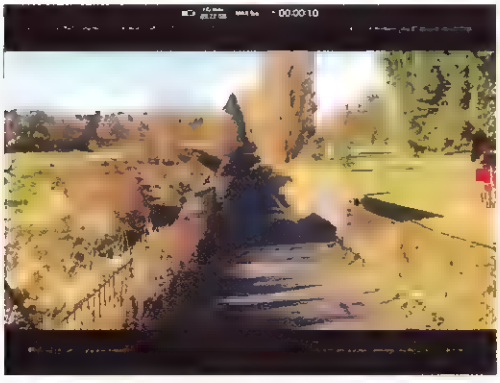


This is another thing to keep in mind for when you come to edit your videos. Your movies will look much more interesting if your segments of footage are shot from different positions, so move around to vary up your shots as much as possible.

Don't Shoot While Walking

This is another point that seems obvious but should be kept in mind. It might seem a nice way to record a walk, but footage shot while walking tends to be largely unwatchable. If you must, hold the camera very steady and walk very slowly.

Pan Slowly

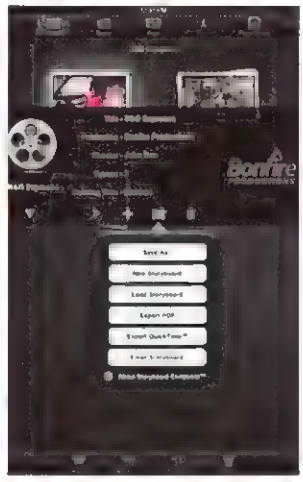


'Slowly' should be a watchword for everything you do with the video camera. Nobody wants to watch jerky movements and sharp changes of angle. When doing a panning shot, hold the iPad as steady as possible and pan slowly.

Use A Tripod Or Stand

If you're planning on shooting longer sections of footage, get yourself some sort of stand or stand the iPad on a stable surface. No matter how steady handed you are, it will look way better and make the final results look much more professional.

Video Camera Apps



Cinemek Storyboard

Price: £22.99
Developed By: Cinemek Inc

While many would gasp at the idea of paying over £20 for an iPad app, this storyboard tool is an extremely useful companion if you need to cobble together such a thing. It's also quite old, first appearing in 2011, and hasn't been updated since 2014, but don't let that put you off. You start off by pulling in assets from your Camera Roll, photographs (which you can also take within the app) or sketches you've drawn, into the panels. Each panel then has several options for you to customise it; what kind of shot angle, scene and shot numbers, simple text notes, and you can record an audio file describing each panel's direction. You can even add silhouettes, male or female, then scale and rotate them into your photos to give the panel more flesh. This is very handy if you're a location scout who doesn't have cast around for the initial pre-production legwork. It's easy to share your project with other CSC users if it's a collaboration, or you can just export it as a PDF so anyone with any sort of computer can look at your creation.

CollabraCam HD

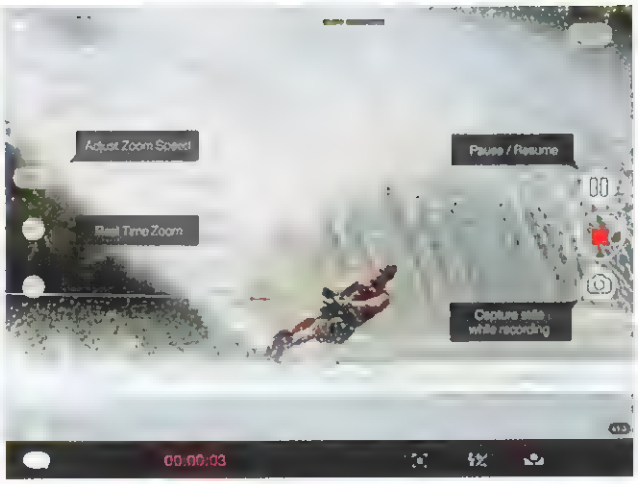
Price: £3.99
Developed By: Apptopus, Inc

So you see yourself more as a director? This excellent multi-camera app will certainly help you on your way, since it lets you connect six iOS cameras to this one app. Picture it; you're sat there with an iPad, you have six iPhone or iPad-owning mates as camera ops, and all that footage feeds straight into CollabraCam, so from your iPad you can tell your camera operators exactly where you want them to go, what to focus on, what angle to shoot at. It's basically a multicam studio all done using mobile technology, so whether you want to shoot a low budget sitcom or a pilot for a chat show, this would be a great way to get it off the ground without breaking the bank. It's a good way to shoot for those who hate post-production since you don't need to hack through loads of rushes during the edit (just tidying it up with transitions). You can use action cues to direct your camera ops, automatically generate credit rolls, and if you don't have people around to man the iPhone cameras you can, purchases permitting, control the cameras remotely if you use electronic mounts like the Galileo devices.

FiLMiC Pro

Price: £7.99
Developed By: FiLMiC Inc

A very well-known and accomplished iOS app, FiLMiC Pro's biggest claim to fame is that it was used to make the Sundance smash hit indie film Tangerine. It's also been used by a lot of professionals to make TV and web adverts. This is a top piece of software for your eight quid that's won more awards than Schindler's List. It turns your iPad into a broadcast quality camera that offers a range of settings to suit different camera ops. There are standard, manual and hybrid options to cater for different skill levels, and there's a variable speed zoom with pre-set zooms. Other features include an action slider where you can adjust live shooting, fast and slow motion options, timelapses and a tri-mode histogram. Once shooting is complete you can play around with the video settings changing exposure, contrast, saturation and tint, plus there are customisable personal pre-sets saved. Want more? Aspect ratio for framing guide overlays, guides for dynamic composition; you're getting the picture. This will do a lot more than make a family home movie of a day on the beach. A nice new little feature is its iWatch compatibility to remotely start and stop recording.

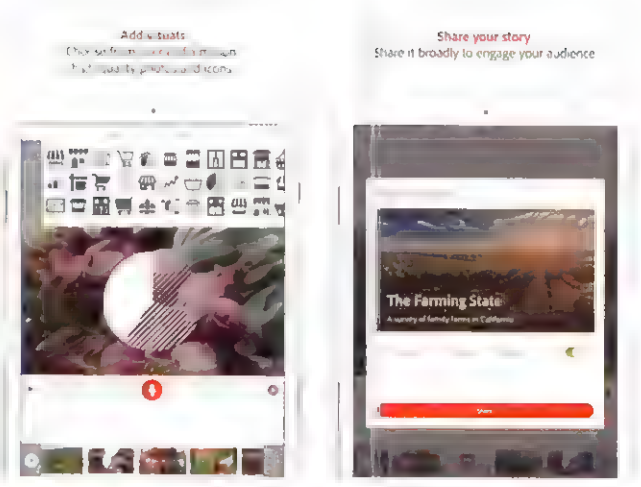


MoviePro: Video Recorder

Price: £4.49
Developed By: Deepak Sharma

Another extremely tactile shooting app that gives its controller a superb range of options to get the footage they so desire. MoviePro lets you tinker with every detail from framerate to resolution and gives you decent customisation of the sound. You can also pre-set the duration of the recording so you don't waste tons of storage space on footage you don't need (and there's a handy timer to start it, great if you're in the video). You can also capture stills while recording, and adjust white balance, tints, focus and exposure, plus you can record in both landscape and portrait. One of its more exclusive features is the aptly named Spy Mode. This lets you record footage without anyone knowing, with a completely blank screen. It's handy if you want to film a fight breaking out in a pub, without being dragged into the fight by its stars. It also has two different editing suites built in - a mini editor to knock individual clips into shape, and a main editor to turn multiple clips into a full project. And it has quick and easy social media sharing. Not bad for under a fiver.

Video Camera Apps (continued)



Videon

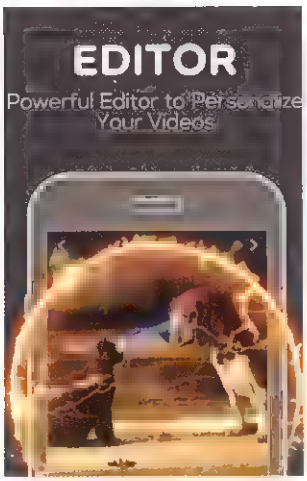
Price: £3.99
Developed By: Lucky Clan

Advertised as a "one shop stop" for all things video, Videon does indeed pack a lot of features for both shooting and editing your footage. It supports multiple framerates and resolutions for different cameras and different iPads, has image stabilisation and a HDR mode. You can take still photos during recording, and seamlessly switch between front and rear cameras mid-recording. It's very easy to keep the focus locked with your finger and controlling the white balance and exposure is also child's play. It also has a neat feature which lets you turn off the audio recording while filming, so if you want to direct a silent movie you can still shout aloud directions without needing to get rid of it in the post. This is also handy if you plan to shoot outside, it's so windy you can barely hear anything anyone's saying, and would rather add the voice track in the post production via microphone somewhere quiet indoors. The editing tools cover all bases letting you apply effects, change contrast and hue, plus resize, trim, merge and add filters like black and white. A lot of bang for your buck.

Vizzywig

Price: £22.99
Developed By: i4software

A pricey app with a bonkers name, Vizzywig does everything you need to make a movie, including shooting and editing and even storyboarding. It also lets you edit video while you're shooting it, so anyone who's on a tight deadline and needs to get a cut done pronto will find this multitasking feature most useful. It has a big range of shooting options for various resolutions, and things like panning and zooming can be set on automatic or controlled manually for the more skilled shooter. The stabilisation is better than with most other apps and reduces the blur and judder considerably, and the autofocus is both smart and smooth. The editing side has a great range of transitions and adding background music's a wheeze. But where Vizzywig really stands out is the multicam feature. You can set up a rig of 16 different iOS cameras and have them all feed into this one app. That's a huge number; you could probably direct your own Big Brother / I'm A Celebrity type show with that many lenses feeding into once place, and it'll save time when it comes to the editing. Expensive, but worth every penny.

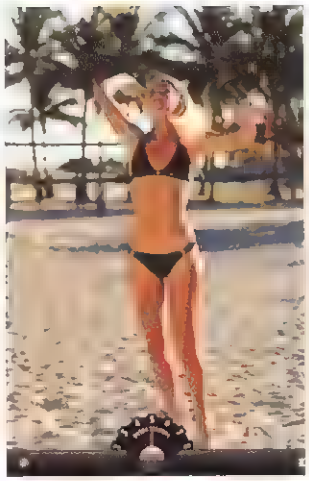


VivaVideo Pro

Price: £2.29
Developed By: QuVideo Inc

Coming in both free and Pro versions, VivaVideo is a good all-round app that lets you both shoot and edit. It doesn't exactly set the world alight when it comes to exclusive features, but what it does - it does well. There are some capture settings that make it fun to play with, such as Basic, Selfie, FX, Funny, Music Video and Collage, and you can tinker with the selfie mode to give it a more natural look. The editing suite is mainly standard fair, letting you trim, crop, merge and tart up your rushes before putting them all into one big movie and sending it out to the big wide world via the usual social sites.

The £2.29 Pro upgrade will make use of its meatier features (and get rid of the watermark), plus there are a ton of downloads you can get (a lot of which are free) to cute-up your video - things like stickers, icons, and even dancing text (this is a great app if you want to cobble together a quick "Happy Birthday!" video to post on a friend's Facebook wall). It's definitely worth a mooch.



Precorder

Price: £1.49
Developed By: Airship Software

A very special app with a very snazzy USP, Precorder lets you set your iPad off recording constantly and on its own, but on a small loop. Why would you want to do this? Imagine if you were waiting for something to happen (like a rare bird arriving in a tree, or your child's first word), you could very well have missed it before you managed to pull your iPad out and hit record. The other alternative is just having it set to record on its own, but that would, obviously, mean either hours and hours of useless footage, or require a conscious effort from you to keep stopping and resetting it. Not with Precorder; just stick your iPad where you want it, aiming towards where you think the impromptu event will occur, then it'll just store the last 3-60 seconds of footage. When the event happens, you hit the record button, then it turns back into a normal video recorder, but with that extra pre-footage you'd have otherwise missed; it's absolutely ingenious. The free version will do you for three seconds, but the £1.49 will get you a far more generous 60 seconds. Ace!

Video Editing

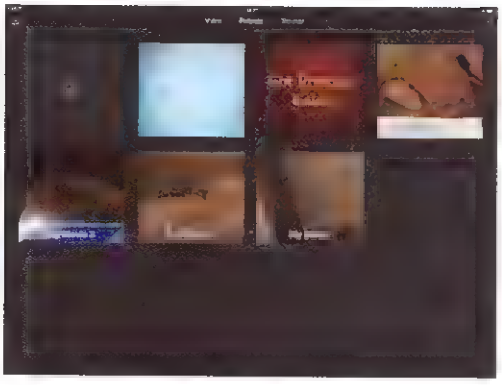
The iPad is a great tool for making videos, whether they're promotional, creative, for special occasions or capturing memories. However, raw video footage isn't that much fun to watch. What you need to do is trim out all the unnecessary bits and edit it all together into a coherent movie. To do so, you need look no further than the excellent iMovie. It enables you to trim, add textures, apply cool transitions between shots and add professional titles. You can also add your own soundtrack and voiceover for really polished results. Our tutorial covers everything you need to know to make the most of iMovie. If it seems like too much work, we also have a guide to Magisto, which does all the hard work for you. Basically, you pick a style, upload your videos and images, and Magisto puts them all together for you. You don't have much control over the final result but it's a brilliant way to easily turn raw footage into movies that people can enjoy.

"Raw video footage isn't that much fun to watch. What you need to do is trim out all the unnecessary bits and edit it all together into a coherent movie"

iMovie

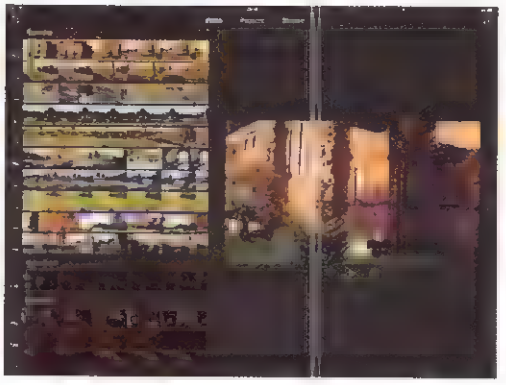
iMovie is a very intuitive and versatile video editor. Follow these steps and create your first movie with this terrific app.

Step 1: Getting Started In iMovie



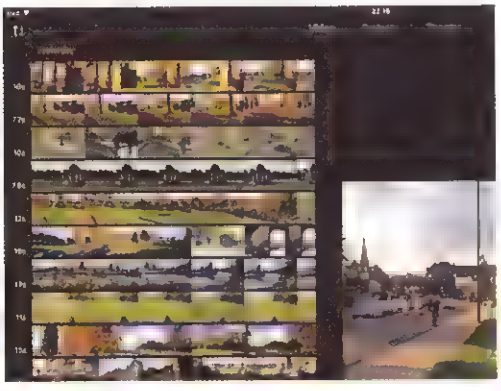
The first screen you'll see has three tabs across the top: Video, Projects and Theater. If this is your first time using iMovie then the latter two will be empty as they contain your projects and projects saved to iCloud respectively.

Step 2: Video



Tap Video to show all the video currently stored on your iPad. Video timelines are shown down the left with a preview window on the right. Tap a video to select it and tap the play button beneath the preview window to view it

Step 3: Marking Favourite Sections

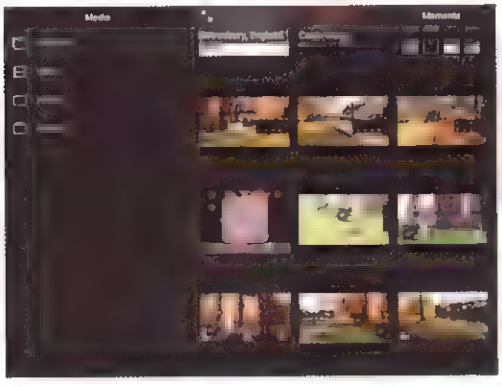


If there's a part of the video you especially like, you can mark it. When you select a clip, it will be highlighted in yellow. Drag the ends to the start and finish off the section you want to mark and tap the heart button. A green line will appear in the timeline.

Step 4: Starting A New Project

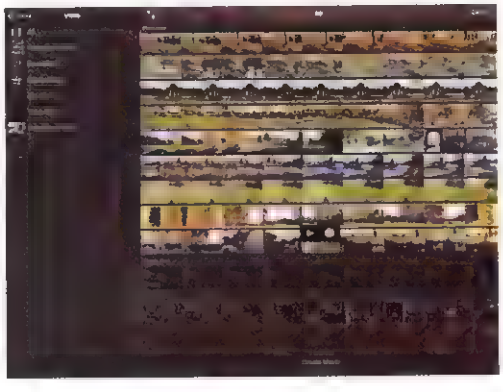
When you're ready to get started, tap the Projects tab and then tap the box with a 'plus' symbol in it. A box will appear asking you if you want to create a Movie or a Trailer. For now, select the Movie option. We'll have a look at Trailer later.

Step 5: Media Selection Screen



You'll then be taken to the Media selection screen where you can choose from all the stills and videos stored on your iPad. Browse via the menu on the left-hand side. Tap a clip to select it and it will become highlighted in yellow.

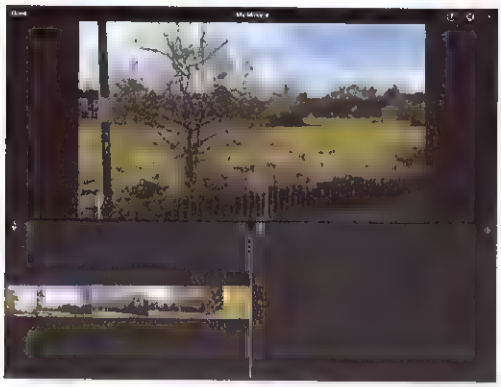
Step 6: Select And Trim Starting Footage



If you want to start working with the clip as it is, tap the Tick icon then tap Create Movie. If you want to trim the clip down first, drag the ends of the yellow to where you want the start and end points to be, then tap the Tick and Create Movie.

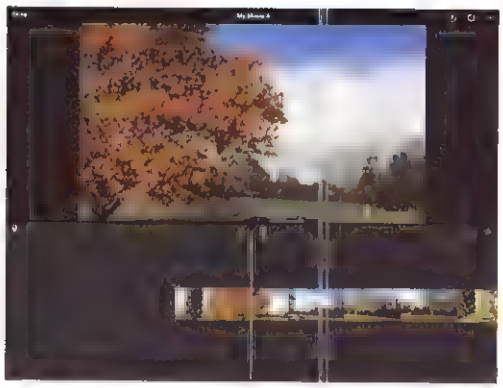
iMovie (continued)

Step 7: Starting A Blank Project



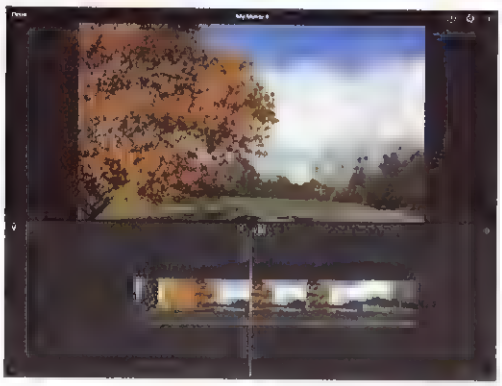
You don't have to select a clip to start your project. If you want to start with a completely empty project, just tap Create Movie without selecting a clip and you'll be taken to the main editing screen, and this is where all the magic happens.

Step 8: Screen Layout



The editing screen is divided into three sections. The top left window is the preview, bottom left is the video timeline and the media selection window is on the left. If you've already selected your clip, tap the X in the top right to close the Media window.

Step 9: The Playhead, Play And Rewind



The white line in the middle of the timeline window is the playhead. You can drag the timeline left and right by swiping. Tap the Play button to preview the clip and tap the rewind button to return to the start of the timeline at any time.

Step 10: View The Audio Waveform

Tap the waveform icon on the far right of the timeline window. This displays the audio waveform for the clip below the timeline, enabling you to compare volume levels between clips. You can toggle the waveform off and on as required by tapping the icon.

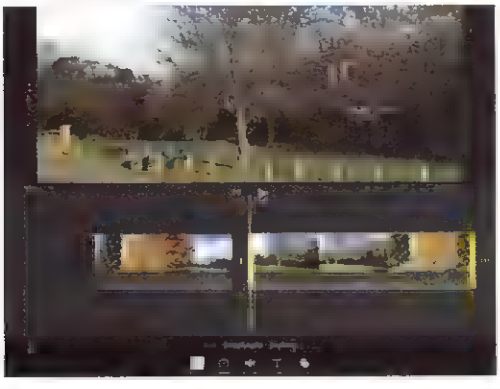
Step 11: Trim The Clip

It's easy to trim clips, and you don't have to worry about trimming too much and losing footage. Just tap the clip and slide the end points to where you want them. You can always adjust them again at any time, making them shorter or longer.

Step 12: Actions

When you select a clip, a control panel appears at the bottom of the screen. The leftmost of these controls is Actions. Tap on this and three new options will appear above the control panel, below the timeline window.

Step 13: Split



The first Actions option is Split. This will be greyed out if the playhead is at the beginning or the end of the clip. If you want to split the clip, drag it so the playhead is on the point at which you want to split it, then tap Split and the clip will be split into two.

Step 14: Detach Audio

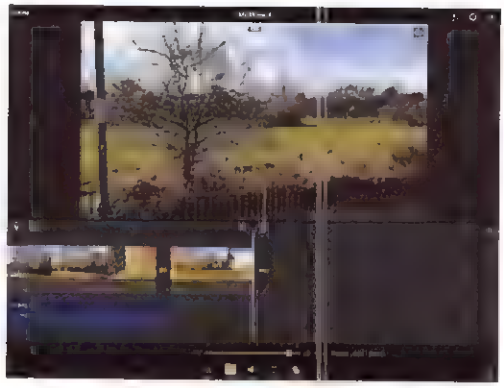
Tapping Detach Audio causes the audio file to be separated from the video clip and displayed below the video. This enables you to trim the audio independently of the video and work with it separately, which is useful if you want to add music.

iMovie (continued)

Step 15: Duplicate

The last command in Actions is Duplicate, and this simply duplicates the selected clip in the next position in the timeline. You can then work with it as a completely new clip, trimming it, splitting it or whatever you want to do.

Step 16: Speed



The speed option enables you to speed up and slow down the speed at which the clip plays. Tap Speed and then drag the slider which appears to the left to slow the clip down and to the right to speed it up as desired.

Step 17: Varying The Speed.

You can have different parts of the clip play at different speeds by dragging the yellow bar and setting different speeds. Notice how the timeline of the video stretches for slower speeds and shortens for faster speeds.

Step 18: Title

Add titles to the clip by tapping the title button. A series of title styles will appear and you can select one by tapping it. Title Text Here will appear over the top of the clip in the preview window. Tap it and type in the text you want.

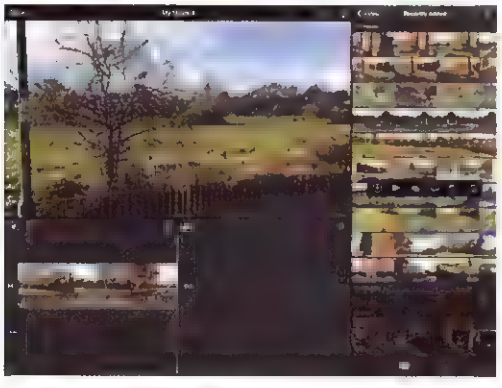
Step 19: Filters

Tapping Filters brings up a series of colour and texture filter options. Tapping any of these immediately applies it to the selected clip. If you want to discard the filter completely, tap None. You can have different filters for each clip.

Step 20: Adding More Clips

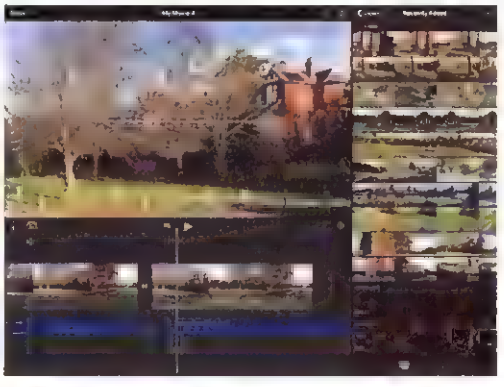
To add another clip to the timeline, tap the 'Plus' button in the top right. This reopens the media selection panel. Tap a new piece of footage and a new set of controls appears enabling you to add the new footage in different ways.

Step 21: Add The Clip To The Timeline



In the pop-up control panel, tap the 'Plus' button to simply add the new clip in the next position on the timeline. This will then immediately follow the original clip when you play the project in the preview window.

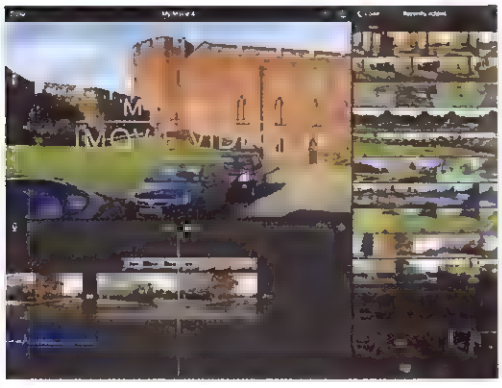
Step 22: Add Audio Only



If you tap the waveform button in the pop-up window, only the audio from the new clip will be added to the project. It will start from the position of the playhead when you select it, so you need to put this in the right position first.

iMovie (continued)

Step 23: Add New Clip As A Cutaway

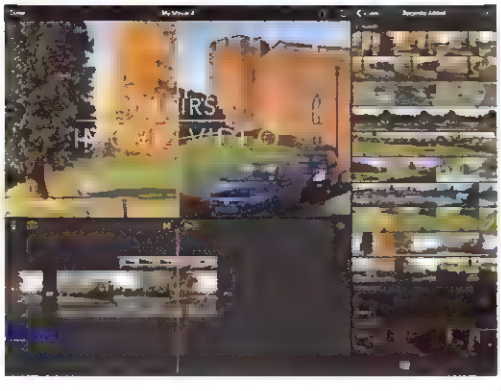


If you tap the square icon next to the waveform in the pop-up panel, the new footage will be added as a cutaway starting at the current playhead position. When you play back, the old clip will cut straight to the new clip at the selected point.

Step 24: Picture In Picture

Tap the next button in the pop-up panel to add the new clip as picture-in-picture. This plays the new clip in a window over the original clip while the original clip continues to play as normal. The start point is the playhead position.

Step 25: Split Screen



The last button in the pop-up panel is split screen. Tap this and at the position of the playhead, the new clip will start playing in split screen with the new clip on the right and the original on the left. Select and trim the new clip by tapping it.

Step 26: Transition Effects

You can change the effect which occurs when one clip transitions into the next. Between different clips, you'll notice an icon. Tap on this to bring up the transition options which will appear in a new panel at the bottom of the screen.

Step 27: Changing The Effect And Speed

There are six transition effects to choose from (including no effect). Try each one by selecting it and playing the video. Change the speed at which the transition occurs from 0.5s, 1s, 1.5s or 2s by tapping the corresponding numbers above the buttons.

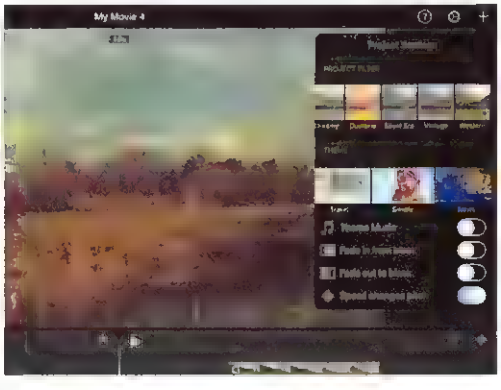
Step 28: Transition Sound Effects

Each transition effect has its own accompanying sound effect, different for each one. You can turn this on or off by toggling the Sound FX option. Every transition in your project can be completely different if you want it to be.

Step 29: Project Settings

Project Settings is where you can add various effects to give your project a fancy, professional feel. To open the Project Settings panel, tap the cog icon in the top right of the screen and the window will appear with six main options to play with.

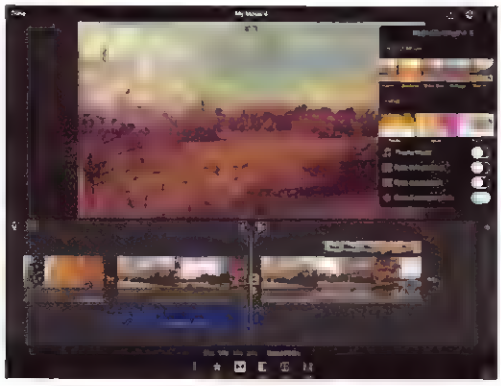
Step 30: Project Filter



We've previously covered how to add filters to individual clips in the project, but this enables you to add a single filter to the entire project in one guy. Swipe left and right to see all the options and tap one to select and apply it.

iMovie (continued)

Step 31: Choose A Theme



Adding a theme can make your project look really professional, and iMove has a few different ones built in so there should be one that fits the mood you're looking for. Swipe across to see all the available themes and tap one to select it.

Step 32: Applying The Theme

Themes work in conjunction with the Titles function covered earlier. If the title is set to None then no theme effect appears. Having chosen your theme for the selected clip, tap Titles and then choose the option immediately to the right of the 'None' option.

Step 33: Customising The Theme

Each theme has three display options which appear just above the bottom control panel – Opening, Middle and Closing. Tap on each one to see how it looks and tap on the text in the preview window to edit it.

Step 34: Theme Music

Return to the Project Settings window by tapping the Cog icon and you'll see four more options at the bottom of the window. Theme Music turns on the music for the currently selected theme; they all have their own soundtracks.

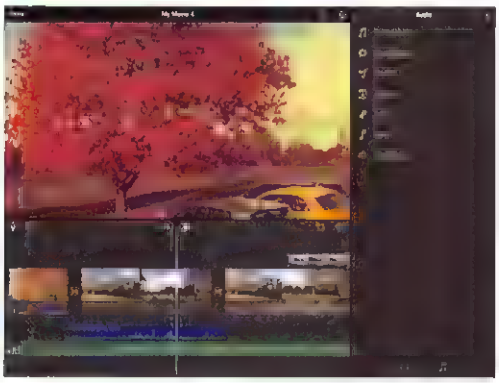
Step 35: Fade In And Out

The 'Fade in from black' and 'Fade out to black' in project settings apply a quick fade in and out at the start and end of your project which just makes it look that little bit more professional. Toggle these effects off and on here.

Step 36: Speed And Pitch

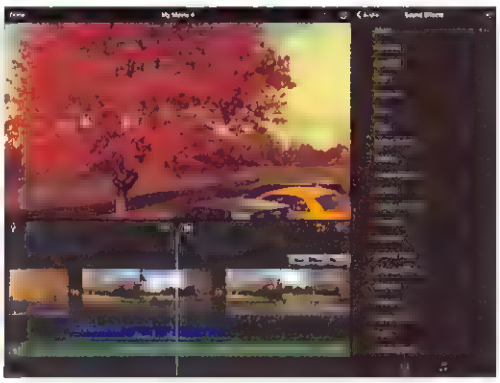
The last option in Project Settings is pretty self-explanatory. By default, when you speed up or slow down clips using the Speed option the audio pitch will change accordingly. Toggle this off here to maintain the same pitch.

Step 37: Add Music And Sound Effects



By now your project should be looking pretty good, but what about the sound? iMovie enables you to add music and sound effects as well. To do so, tap the 'Plus' button in the top right to open the media window and then select Audio at the bottom.

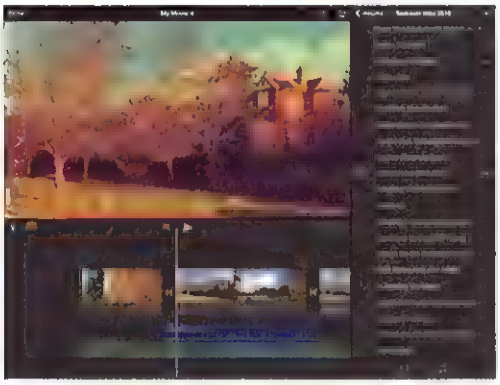
Step 38: Sound Effects



Tap Sound Effects to bring up a whole list of effects to use in your project. You can tap on each one to hear it, and if you like it, tap USE which appears when you preview it. The effect will start at the point at which the playhead is currently set.

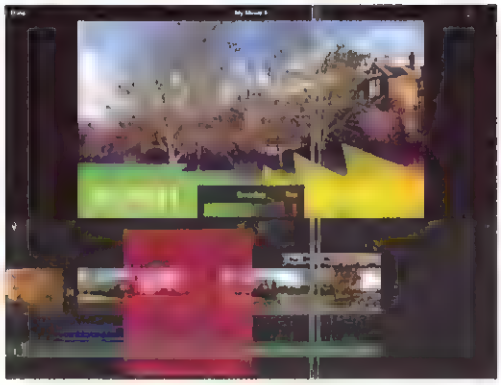
iMovie (continued)

Step 39: Add Music



You can add any music track stored on your iPad. Browse to the track you want, tap on it and then tap USE and it will be placed in your project timeline at the current position of the playhead. Tap X when you want to close the Audio window.

Step 40: Add A Voiceover



You can add a voiceover at any time by tapping the microphone button on the left of the screen. Position the playhead where you want the voiceover to start, tap record and then just start talking to record in realtime over the video.

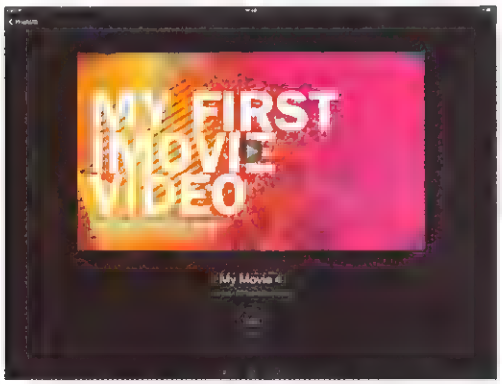
Step 41: Editing Music And Effects

All audio tracks appear below your clips in the timeline and can be edited in exactly the same way as your video footage. You can trim them, split them, duplicate them and move them about just as you can with video clips.

Step 42: Music Copyrights

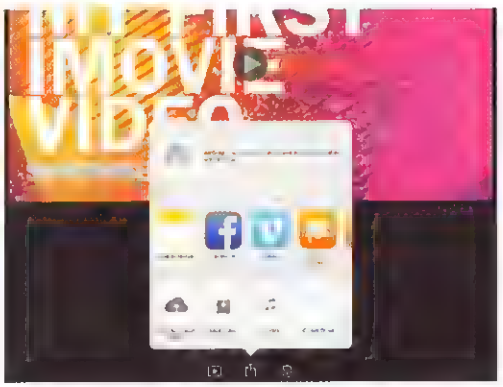
If you're planning on uploading your project to YouTube, it's worth keeping in mind that YouTube has very a very strict policy on music usage, so you can't use any commercial tracks or you'll get into trouble and have your video pulled.

Step 43: Saving Your Project



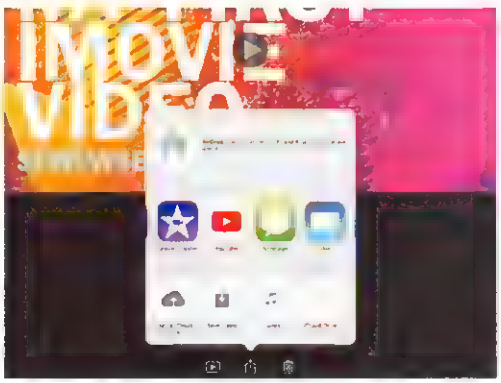
If you need to stop working on your project just tap Done in the top left and it will automatically be saved. When you select t from the Projects screen you can tap Edit to go ahead and continue editing it or hit the Play button to view it full screen.

Step 44: Exporting Your Finished Movie



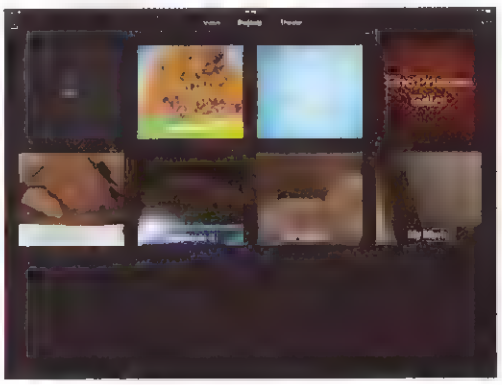
Go to the Projects screen and select your finished movie. Tap the Share button at the bottom of the screen and choose Save Video to export to save it to your iPad Photos app. From there you can select it and play it like any other saved video.

Step 45: Sharing Your Movie



Go to the Projects screen and select your finished movie. Tap the Share button at the bottom of the screen and choose from any of the available sharing options including Facebook, Dropbox, Messages and more.

Step 46: Editing Exported Projects



If you want to edit project once you've exported it, you can. It remains in your Projects folder in iMovie and you can continue to tinker with it to your heart's content. And that's pretty much all you need to know to get started!

Make A Trailer In iMovie

iMovie comes with a series of templates that enable you to make proper Hollywood-style trailers for your movies in a matter of minutes.

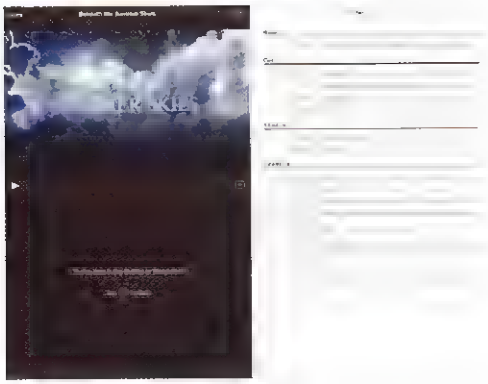
Step 1: Create A New Project

To make a new trailer you need to start a new project. Tap the Projects tab and then tap the square with a 'Plus' sign in it. A pop-up window will appear asking you to select between Movie and Trailer. Obviously, choose Trailer.

Step 2: Choose A Trailer Template

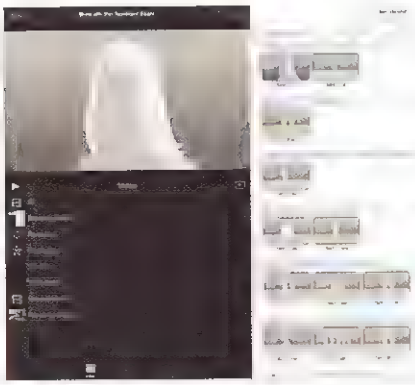
You'll be taken to the template preview screen. Swipe left and right to see all the templates and tap Play to preview the selected one. The length of each template appears below the preview window. Tap Create to select the current template.

Step 3: Outline



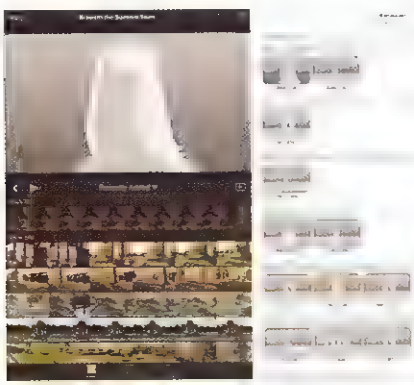
On the left side of the screen you'll see the preview window, and on the right the project outline. Here you can add credits, change the title and tap where it says Logo Style to choose from several intro sequences.

Step 4: Storyboard



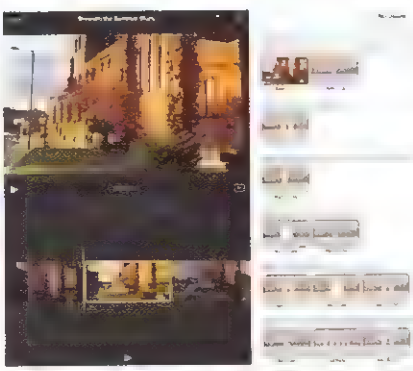
At the top of the left panel is another tab called Storyboard. Tap this to start placing your clips and stills. Tap on any of the section titles to edit them. Hold your finger on any of the images or titles and drag to move the playhead.

Step 5: Add Video And Photos



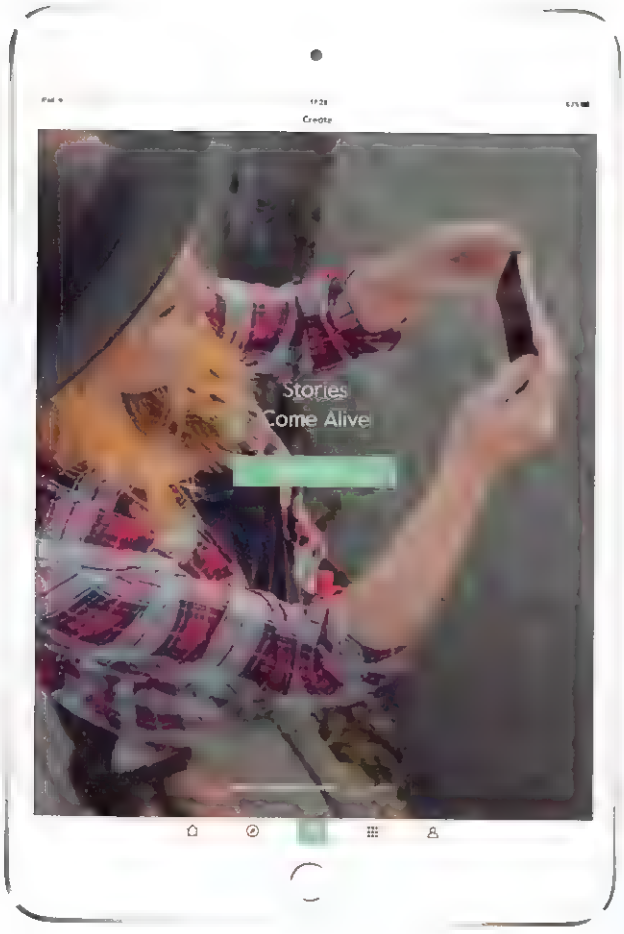
Tap any of the photo or video clips to bring up your stored media and choose the one you want. Stills are marked as Photo in the storyboard while video clip slots indicate the type of shot that will work best.

Step 6: Clip Length



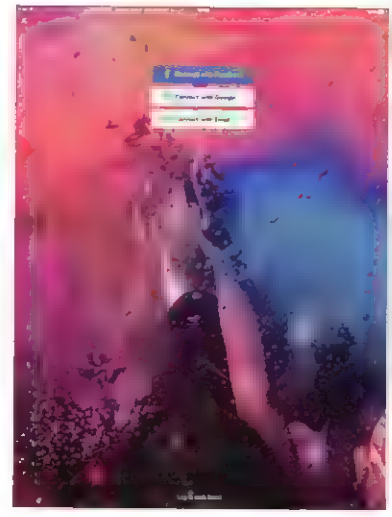
Each video clip has a default length within the trailer. When you open your saved clips, a yellow box of the appropriate length appears in the video timeline which you can slide to the part of the clip that you want to use.

Magisto



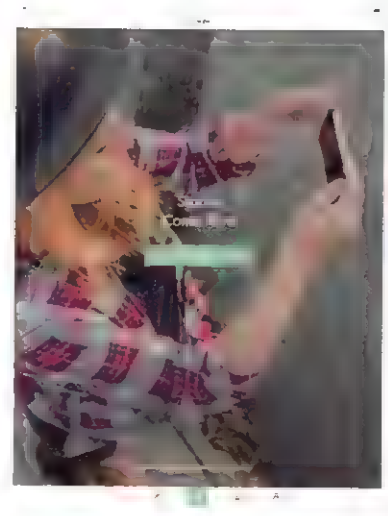
If you don't want to mess about manually editing videos together, Magisto is the perfect answer. It does everything for you and lets you become part of a vibrant community.

Step 1: Sign Up



Starting Magisto for the first time, you'll be prompted to sign up for an account or sign in with an existing account such as Facebook. You can skip this if you want, but you won't be able to share movies and follow other users.

Step 2: Making Movies



Before you start using Magisto, you'll need the videos and images you want to use saved on your iPad. Bear in mind more shorter clips work better than fewer, longer ones, so keep that in mind when shooting footage.

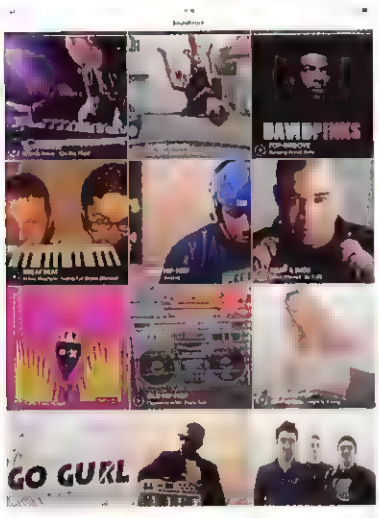
Step 3: Selecting Clips And Images

When you're ready to get started, tap the Make a Movie button and this will take you to a screen with all your saved images and clips. Tap all those you want to include (the total time appears at the top) and tap Next when done.

Step 4: Editing Style

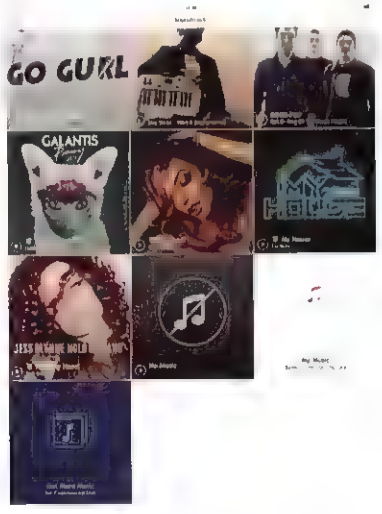
Now you get to choose the style of video you want. There's a whole host of formats with different themes, textures and transitions. Tap on any of them to see a sample preview and find one that fits the style you want.

Step 5: Choose A Pre-set Soundtrack



Next up is the soundtrack. Magisto comes with a bunch of different tracks licensed for commercial use. Tap the play button to hear each one and if you like it, tap anywhere else in its box to select it, or go to the bottom and choose No Music.

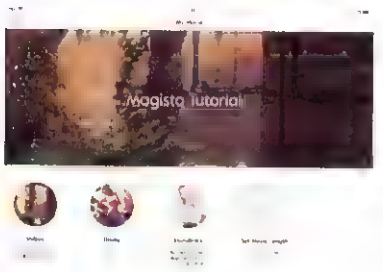
Step 6: Choose Your Own Music



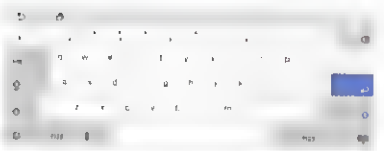
You can choose from your own music library by tapping the My Music option. Just remember not to use unlicensed music if you're planning on uploading your movie to YouTube as they have strict rules on that.

Magisto (continued)

Step 7: Add A Title And Set Length



When you've selected your videos and images, picked a style and chosen your soundtrack, you get to give your movie a title. Tap on the text and type in what you want to call out. You can also set the length here (some clip trimming will occur).



Step 8: Description And Hashtags

While your movie is processing, you get the option to add a description and hashtags to enable other users to find it. If you're not planning on sharing it then you don't need to worry about this step and can leave it blank.

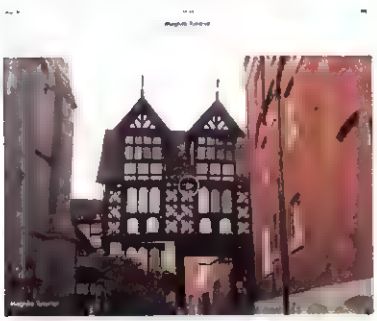
Step 9: Make A Cup Of Tea

Magisto uploads everything to cloud servers and that's where it works its magic, meaning it can take a while to complete the process, especially with longer videos. You don't have to stay in the app in the meantime.

Step 10: See Your Video

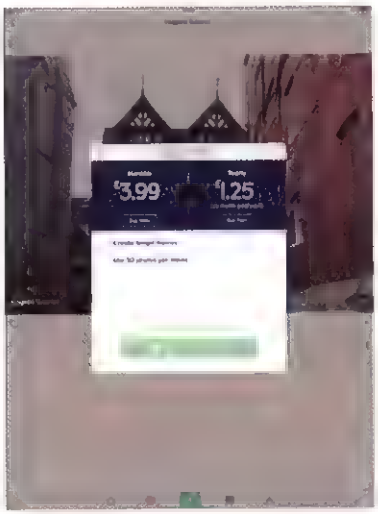
You'll receive a notification from Magisto when your video is complete. All your Magisto videos appear on your profile page. Tap on it to view it and see how your random clips have been transformed into a lovely movie!

Step 11: Your Videos And Sharing



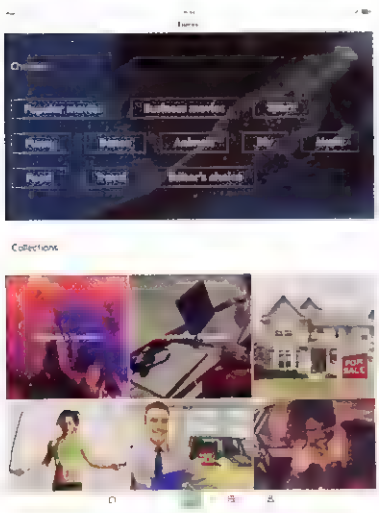
Tap the video thumbnail to bring up the main preview screen. There's a share icon below the window and a download button. However, you can't download without paying a fee which is why you should check out...

Step 12: Subscription Options



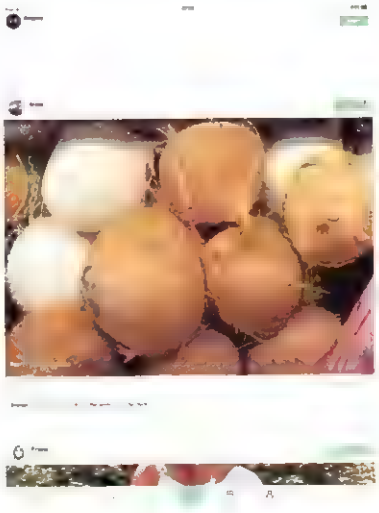
If you want to be able to download movies to your device, you need to take out a monthly or yearly subscription. This also enables you to make longer movies, add more still images and gives more editing styles to choose from.

Step 13: Find Cool Videos



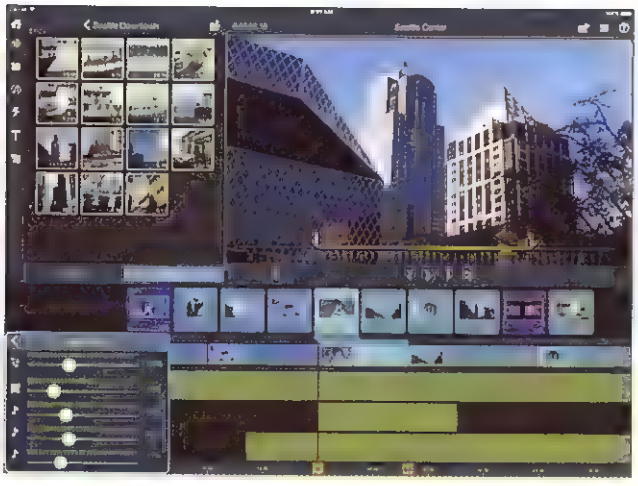
Magisto is more than just a video editor. It's a thriving social network that lets you find cool videos by other users easily. Tap the Compass button and then pick a category to see lots of great videos by other users.

Step 14: Following Users



If you tap on a user's name you're taken to their profile where you can see all their public videos. Tap Follow to follow them and their new videos will appear on your home page, accessed by tapping the House button.

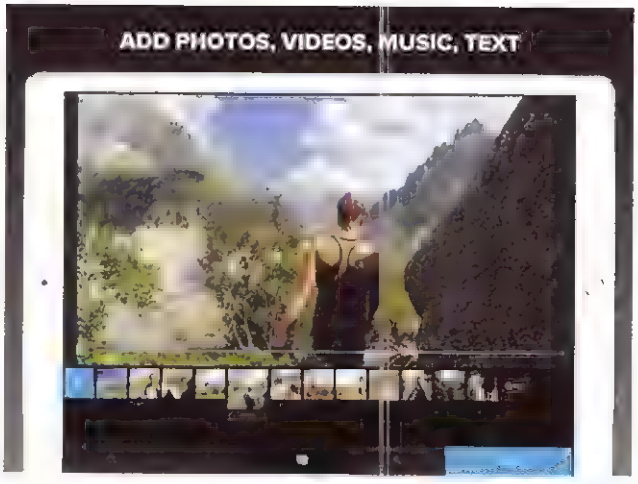
Video Editing Apps



Pinnacle Studio Pro

Price: £9.99
Developed By: Coran Inc.

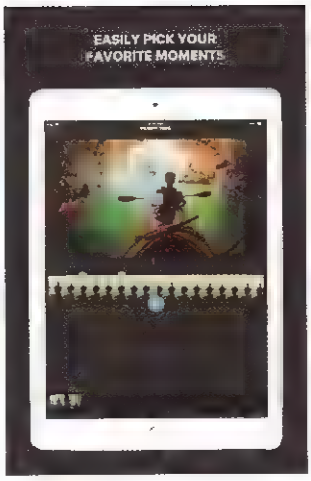
Pinnacle Studio is a serious piece of software for the more professional video editor, and can even replace desktop editing for all but the heaviest cuts. While its interface might smack of iMovie, it goes beyond that freebie with an oceanic depth of features. The two main areas are Storyboard and the Timeline, the former where you can keep an eye on your rushes and images, the latter where your project will start to develop as you build and edit it, similar to timelines on other editing software and uses simple sliders to control it. A quick double tap on the Timeline will open a menu of more advanced tricks, such as speed setting, zoom options, tinkering with the audio, to name a few familiar options. It has great Preview functionality, with your files laid out top left of the screen, and adding clips to the Timeline is simply a drag-and-drop affair. It's also good at pulling in rushes from places like DropBox, Google Cloud, iTunes File Share and OneDrive, which saves local storage space, and easily lets you share on social media or video platforms like YouTube and Vimeo.

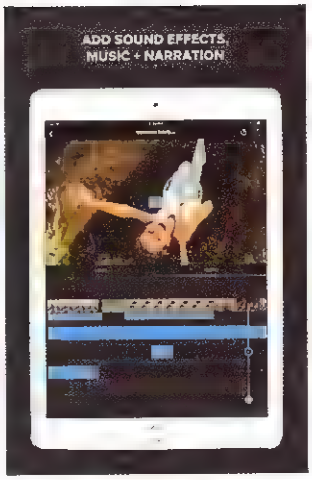


Quik

Price: Free
Developed By: GroPro, Inc

As the name suggests this is a snappy little app that costs nothing, so obviously it isn't the most feature-heavy and certainly isn't intended for professionals. Quik is great for those who find editing software daunting as it does a lot of the heavy work for you and only needs a few taps to get things going. You simply pick whatever clips and photos you want from your library, Facebook profile or Instagram account (or GroPro camera, since it's their app) then it'll piece it together for you adding smooth transitions and even syncs it all to fit with the music you choose. You can add text, play with filters (and even add emojis if that's your sort of thing) then whack it out on your social media networks in next to no time. A clever function is being able to set the duration of your clip and Quik will edit the whole thing together to fit that timeframe - it's all very automatic and will obviously offend seasoned video editors, but for snappy little clips to make while on holiday and shove online for the people back home, you can't go wrong.





LumaFX

Price: £3.99
Developed By: Luma Touch LLC

Limited in its scope in that it doesn't let you glue clips together, what LumaFX does well is give you great control over a single clip, then lets you go at it with a whole toolbox of features. You can change the aspect ratio of your clips for starters, then rotate, flip, sped up, slow down and then you can take your scissors to the clip and get rid of the crappy bits.

The star sections of the app are the Colour and FX sections - here you can really go to town on your home movie. Colour can be used for anything as small as a bit of correction, or something as huge as giving the whole video a hallucinatory LSD trip look. You can take footage and mangle it up, add vignettes, boost vibrancy - the scope is very impressive for an app that costs less than a pint of posh lager. It's got loads of intelligent options like being able to snap and save stills and you can optimise your exports.

It's won a fair few awards and high praise from users and it's easy to see why when you start to use it – download it today.

Splice

Price: Free
Developed By: GroPro, Inc

Another freebie but one with a bit more meat than its sister app Quik (also by GroPro). At the outset, it looks very much like a lot of video editors, select a clip (or rush, as it's called) then get to work on it using the timeline. Just a quick tap on each video will bring up a roster of options and effects, like trimming segments or adding a text overlay on top of the footage. After you've had a fiddle you're taken back to the central board so you can have a look at other clips, and it's from here you can sprinkle on sound effects and/or add your own voice over if you fancy being narrator to your masterpiece.

It's not as comprehensive as the chunkier paid apps, but it covers most of what you'll need if you're a hobbyist video editor. It's very quick and easy to use and is great for the less experienced editor who might want to make a rough cut, before handing it over to more experienced hands using a more complex app. It also has DropBox support, which is handy if you use DropBox.

Video Editing Apps (continued)

FilmoraGo

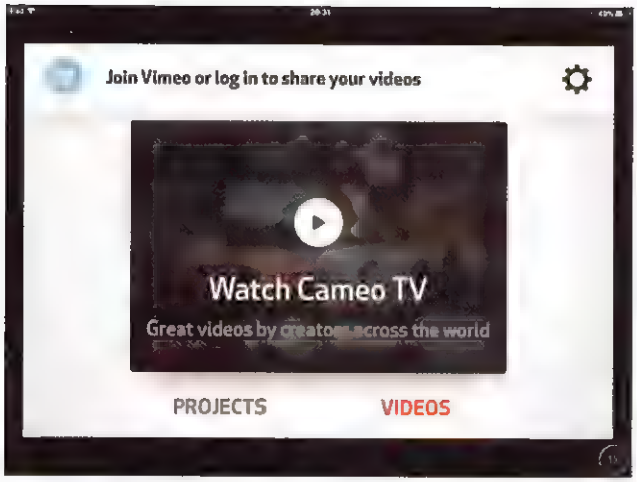
Price: Free
Developed By: Wondershare Software Co. Ltd

Another decent freebie app, and one that works well in tandem with its big desktop brother. It doesn't have much in the way of killer USPs and most of which you get here is available in other apps, but what FilmoraGo does is provide a very nicely-made product that's both a doddle and joy to use, and which has almost no learning curve. Yet somehow it does pretty much everything most people will ever need. You pull all your visual assets in from your iPad, Facebook profile or Instagram account, then pick a theme before choosing all your soundtracks. Next, it's the filters, titles and transitions, and when you're happy it's all fallen into place you can launch it out to the world via your chosen social media network or video hosting site (or email, or WhatsApp). You can record your own voice from within the app and have a play with the the Audio Mixer. You can also pick licensed music from the app's own library if you so choose, and all the basic editing functions are present and correct. All in all - a worthy app, and a bargain at free.

Clipper Instant Video Ed.

Price: Free
Developed By: Wander Bit LLC

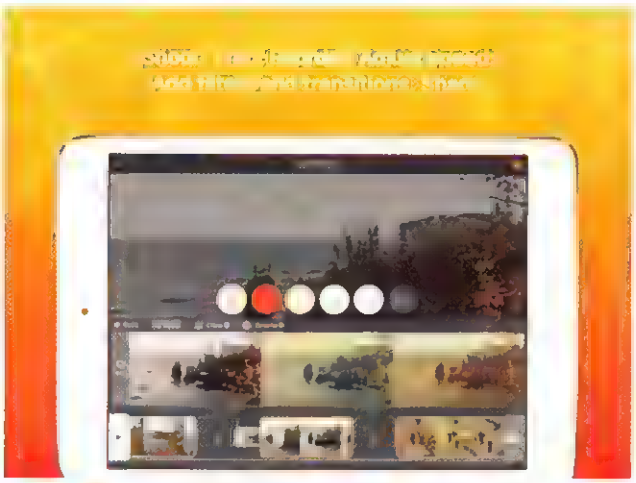
Another of the freebie apps made for people who want something nippy and easy rather than deep and complex. Clipper lets you do quick and basic editing, apply some music, add a few effects then lets you quickly share it with the world via the usual social media apps. As is common, you start from your Camera Roll to chuck in the clips and photos, then move on to the timeline. You can arrange the clips as you choose, then add music either from your own library or Clipper's impressive range of licensed tunes. Special FX include '80s TV, the 1920s and Fisheye (one drawback is the effect is used for the entire project and isn't editable to a section or an individual clip). That said, it's not meant to be an editing powerhouse, and that level of control could have made it confusing to beginners (who the app is ultimately aimed at). Like the clippers you get at the hairdresser's, it's all about speed here, and it doesn't mess around. You can have your clips cobbled together with music and the whole thing pumped out on Facebook within minutes if you don't mess around.



Cameo

Price: Free
Developed By: Vimeo, LLC

There was a time when Vimeo's own mobile app was more than just a way of sharing your own videos and viewing other people's; it had some basic built-in editing software that, while hardly the pinnacle of invention and design, did a reasonable job of letting you edit vids before pumping them out to the public. Then Vimeo bought Cameo and made that its dedicated video editing app. You'll need a Vimeo account to log in as the two work in tandem (although you can log in with Facebook if you don't mind doing that). Once you're inside you'll be able to source all your rushes from your Camera Roll, and it's simply a case of chopping things up as you desire. It's not a hard app to learn; it's been designed with Vimeo's big audience in mind rather than for professional editors, and it lets you easily stick things up on Vimeo, Facebook, Instagram; you know the score. It has some cool filters and effects to play with and a library of music that you can tap into to add groove to your movie. It's also ad-free, which is great for a freebie app so there are none of those annoying pop-ups to deal with.



Vee for VIdeo

Price: £2.29
Developed By: Medious

A shoot and editing app, Vee for Video has the great functionality of being able to shoot from your iPad straight into the video editing suite, so you don't end up cluttering your Camera Roll. It has all the usual editing features such as trimming, changing speeds, transitions and filters and you can share it with the world via social media in seconds. It has very little fat on it, and everything is quick and painless in that drag-and-drop way so suited to the iPad. It's also got an impressive array of sound functionality, letting you pick tunes from either your iTunes library, AudioCopy, AudioShare and many other third-party audio apps. A recent update made editing more capable with Precise Trimming; just keep your fingers held on the iPad and drag away from your timeline. The higher you drag upwards the more precision becomes available; at the top of the screen you'll be trimming frame-per-frame. There's also a handy frame counter at the top of the screen so you can easily see what you're doing, which is always useful.

Video Special FX

If you want to get a bit more creative with your videos, or simply have a bit of fun, there are some amazing special effects apps available that can open up spectacular new possibilities, and we'll look at a few of them in this section.

One app that you should definitely check out is Action Movie FX. It's been around for a while now and it keeps getting better. It enables you to add awesome Hollywood-style effects to your videos with ease. There are several free effects to try and loads more available to buy through in-app purchases. We also have a guide to Green Screen Movie FX Studio, an effective green screen app that basically enables you to shoot a subject against plain background then apply any other background to the footage. Once you get into it the possibilities are huge. We also look at 8mm which simulates movie stocks of different eras, so whether you're going for a silent movie from the Twenties look, or a grainy Seventies grindhouse feel, you can get them both and more.

"There are some amazing special effects apps available that can open up spectacular new possibilities"

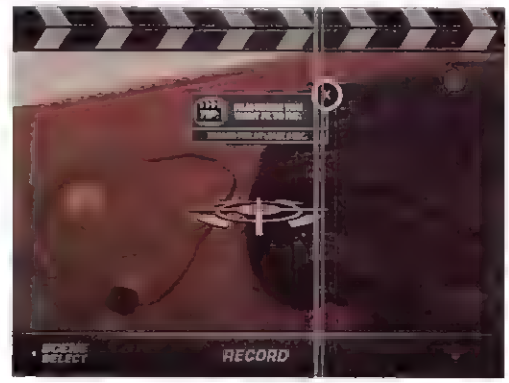
Action Movie FX

Wouldn't it be great if you could shoot video footage of your friends getting zapped by UFOs or running away from giant spiders? Well, you can! Add amazing Hollywood-quality special effects to your videos with this awesome app

Step 1: Check The FX

This app enables you to add proper special effects to your movies, from explosions to spaceships. You'll see all the various effects in a carousel. Swipe left and right to cycle through them and tap one to open the preview window.

Step 2: Choose An Effect



In the preview window you can see the effect in action in the small viewing pane and there are a few words of advice to help you maximise the impact of the effect that you're going to use. If you like the selected effect, tap the Start button.

Step 3: Shoot Your Video

You'll see a viewfinder with a target in the centre and a record button at the bottom. Tap the record button and then aim the target where you want the special effect to hit. You can film as long as you want but you need to shoot at least five seconds.

Step 4: Add The FX

When you stop the recording you'll go to a screen with a timeline and a red button marked FX. Drag this to the point where you want the effect to hit then tap OK to confirm. When it's processed you'll see the play button which means it's ready.

Step 5: Preview Your Video

Tap the play button and the clip will play complete with special effect. If you're not happy with the timing of the effect, tap the back button to adjust it. If you're happy, tap the share button to post it to Facebook, email it or save it to your camera roll.

Step 6: Get More FX

The app itself is free and comes preloaded with some free effects, but there are loads more available to buy. Browse the carousel to check them out. There's everything from crashing cars to Star Wars!

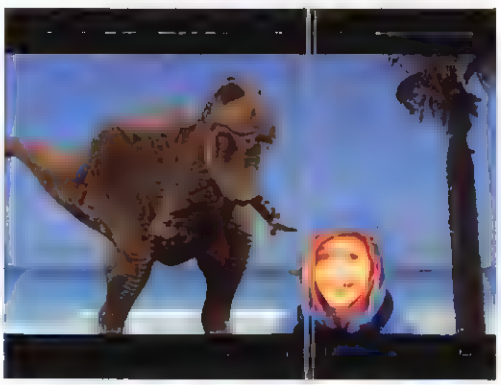
Green Screen Movie FX Studio

In movie-making, green screening is technique that enables you to remove the backgrounds from videos and replace them with anything you want. Green Screen Movie FX Studio enables you to do this right on your iPad.

Step 1: So What Is Green Screen?

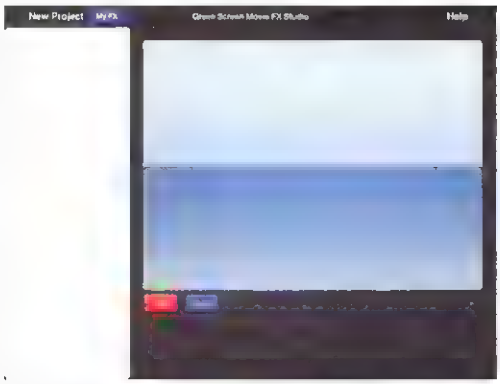
Green Screen Movie FX Studio enables you to place subjects against different backgrounds and add special effects in layers so it appears as though the subject is really there, in the middle of whatever crazy stuff is happening.

Step 2: The Subject



The first job is to shoot some footage of your subject. You need to film them against a single colour backdrop and they mustn't be wearing anything of the same colour. Bold colours such as bright blue or bright green work the best.

Step 3: Create A Project



When the main screen appears, tap the New Project button. You can then choose the video quality – high quality takes longer to process. When you've made your selection you can choose to shoot a new video or import existing footage.

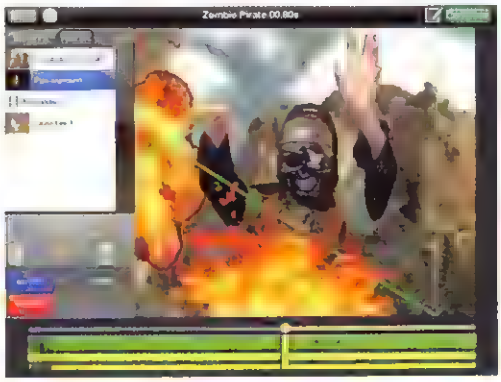
Step 4: Removing Colours

When you pull in your footage the first job is to remove the background. Tap the background to select it as the chrome key in the box at the top right of the screen and all of that colour will be removed. Adjust the level so that all noise is removed.

Step 5: Adding Effects

Add effects by tapping the Add Effect button. These are added in layers in the order they appear in the box. To re-order them, tap Move FX then drag them up or down. Typically you'll want the background at the bottom and the subject at the top.

Step 6: Fine Tuning



You can scale, drag and rotate all layers until they're perfectly positioned and then tap Compose at the top of the screen. The video will then be processed, after which you can share it via all the usual means.

8mm Vintage Camera

8mm provides a great way to add different filters and effects to your footage in real time. It's one of the best apps of its type available.

Step 1: Control Overview

The first time you open it up you'll see a brief overview of the controls but it's pretty simple and intuitive to use once you get started. Just tap the screen to bypass the overview and get into it.

Step 2: Choosing An Effect

The rectangular button at the top right enables you to select a frame effect. Swipe the effect title to see the effects in the viewfinder. You can also add frame jitter for extra vintage authenticity using the large button at the bottom right.

Step 3: Settings

Tap the small button second from the left at the bottom of the screen to go to My Reels where your movies are stored. Enter Settings by tapping the cog. Here you can set the aspect ratio and choose whether you want to shoot in HD.

Step 4: Sound Options

The right-most icon under the view finder toggles the sound options. You can choose mute, normal sound or add the effect of an old-style film projector clattering away in the background. Very cool if you're going for that vintage feel.

Step 5: Using Existing Footage

If you want to apply 8mm's effects to existing footage that, tap the small cog icon to the right of the viewfinder. You may have to enable 8mm to access you camera roll. Then you can load in your footage and the app will convert it for you.

Step 6: Action

To record video footage with the selected stock options applied, tap the red button. A timer tells you that you're recording. When you're done, tap the red button again to stop. Your footage will be saved to the Photos app.

Video Special FX Apps

FxGuru

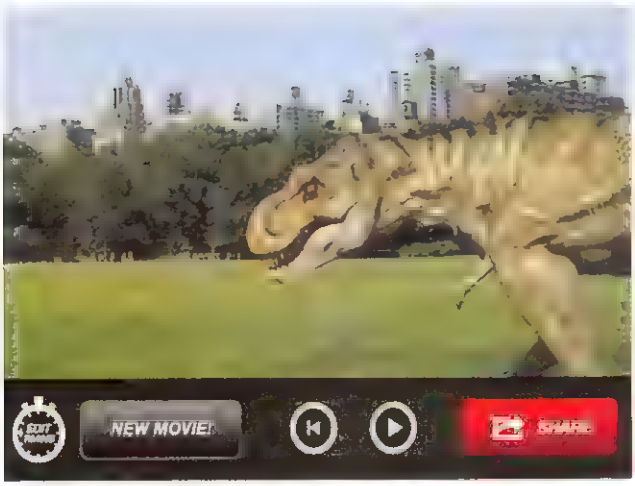
Price: Free
Developed By: Picadelic

A great little app that's insanely easy to use, FxGuru will help you turn your bog-standard movies into Hollywood blockbusters (OK, slight exaggeration) by letting you quickly overlay special effects with just a few taps of the iPad screen. There are over 90 special effects on offer covering a whole range of movie genres, including action, sci-fi and horror. This is the perfect app if you want to create quick hoax movies - you can take a quick video of your hallway at night and add a spooky ghost, or point your camera skywards then add a UFO (it's unlikely to hold up to NASA's degree of scrutiny, but could certainly fool your dimmer friends). While the app itself is free, most of the special effects are in-app purchases, but for 79p a pop you can add a ghost bride to some wedding footage, a rocket launcher effect into a bar room brawl or slap a T-Rex into an otherwise boring safari park video. Or you can add an earthquake, a flood or even a tornado - it's great fun and a doddle to pick up and play with.

VHS Camcorder

Price: £2.29
Developed By: Rarevision

Do you miss the crackle and visual noise of old VHS cameras? Do you prefer the raspy screen burps and distortion that plagued those old VHS recordings you took in the '80s on camcorders that were the size of a stinger missile launcher and more expensive than a new car? If so, this might be the best £2.29 you'll ever spend. Take any video and whack it through this and watch in glee as the colour is bleached to buggery, the edges brought into disrepute and all the other joys that old analogue used to bring. It's great if you want to film your kids and make the video look like the videos of you as a kid, and if you're shooting low budget film or TV, it's damn handy for some throwback footage that needs to be in incredibly poor detail. It also makes the sound so tinny you'll think it's been filtered through a sheet of tin foil, and as an ace touch it has them grim-looking time and date stamps that no one ever seemed to turn off back then. A must-have for nostalgia buffs.



Creatures FX

Price: Free
Developed By: Hot Salsa Interactive

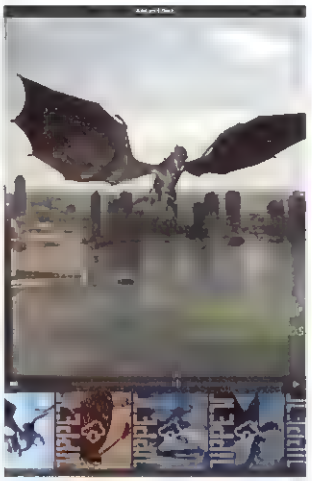
As the name implies, this is all about FX for big snarly beasts that are on the rampage. It works slightly different to a lot of special effects apps, in that you choose the actual effect first as an overlay, then film a scene to fit the effect. So for example, pick one of the T-Rex scenes (that come free) with it stomping across the screen, then film your mates running across a field, then bingo - you have your own Jurassic Park chase sequence (if Spielberg had this back in 1993 he'd have saved a fortune on production costs). All the scenes have pretty sharp and realistic sound effects to give the videos more audio punch, and the app has some simple and basic editing tools so you can whip it into shape before sharing on Facebook or uploading to YouTube. It also has a plethora of in-app purchases for individual effects, with packs like Dragon, Robot, Stampede, Demon, Battle, Troll and less dramatic scenes involving chimpanzees and even butterflies for a calmer, more tranquil production. All cost 79p so they won't break the bank, and it's super easy to get to grips with.

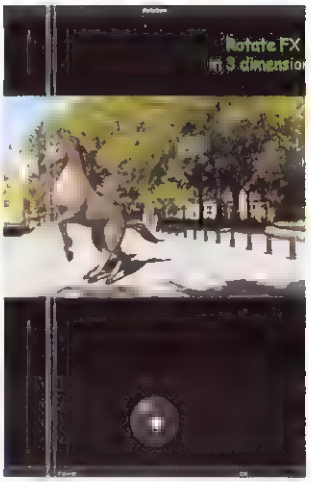
Movie FX Super

Price: Free
Developed By: Miinu

One of the older apps that's not been updated in a few years, but still worth a mooch if Hollywood dramatics flick your switch. Among the many special effects you can add are T-Rex (we're noticing a pattern there), Alien Abduction, Jet Fighter Crash, Spaceship Collisions, Grenade Attack, UFO Retreat, Dragons Attack and Meteor Attack (plus many more, the list goes on for ages). On top of this, the app comes with nine dramatic background soundtracks you can choose from to heighten the tension. It also has some natty features that let you add visual filters such as Black and White and Apocalypse (there are five in total). You can export your video in two different resolutions (high and normal) then push it out to the world via Facebook, Twitter or just email it your mates. It's had some poor user reviews in the past as it used to be a paid app with a lot of its content only accessible through further in-app spending, but now the base app is free and with a generous selection of FX and scenes to boot, it's well worth having a look.

Video Special FX Apps (continued)





Saber Movie FX

Price: £3.99
Developed By: Outerspacious Software LLC

An app made entirely for one purpose - to let you create lightsaber fights that look like proper Star Wars swedges. Using highly advanced rotoscoping technology, it places and animates colour glowing sabers (it never says lightsabers, but they are lightsabers) within your video so it looks like the fate of the galaxy is in your hands. Basically, if you wanted to film you and a mate so it looked like you were having a Jedi vs Sith dust off, you'd just fight it out using broomsticks, then when you put it through Saber Movie FX the broomsticks would become glowing light sticks of death. You can shoot a movie yourself and import it into the app, or take some pre-existing video and simply add the glowing sabers on. You can pick green, red, blue or purple sabers and have a good old tinker around with the sound, allowing you to place sound effects such as the saber appearing, the wooshing and hit noises. There's not much else it can do, and it's not exactly cheap at £4, but the Star Wars hardcore will pay four notes for a crack of the Force.

Efexio

Price: Free
Developed By: Efexio, Inc

A fairly comprehensive app that offers more than the simple "wham, bam, thank you ma'am" special FX the more simple apps offer. Efexio uses proper 3D models that you can spin around in 3D. While not quite a 3D modeling package, it's more than just a case of slapping down a pre-set scene. You can tinker with the lighting on the models, play around with resizing, add haze, create a colour cast and even play around with the shadows. It's not really one for granny or little kids and would suit someone more at home with visual software. The base app comes with some dinosaur and dragon effects among a few others, plus there's a load you can buy in via in-app purchases including skeleton and zombie hordes plus a very enchanting unicorn (they're usually 79p but often they're free whenever Efexio is feeling charitable). It's one of the most popular special effects apps on the app store with many users raving about its tactility and clean editing software. The effects were made by Phil Tippet, who worked on RoboCop, Jurassic Park and Matrix Revolutions - so he knows his onions.

SloPro

Price: Free
Developed By: Sand Mountain Studios

A top-notch app for getting top-notch slow mo, SloPro - 1000fps lets you record in normal speed then replay it in super slow motion. One of its key features is that you can edit renderless - you insert slow motion cues and change the speed of playbacks without the horrific time spent needing to re-render everything. You can also massively speed things up if you're after the Zack Snyder style of video that goes from dead slow to silly fast and back again. You can add slow motion effects like ghosting, frame bending and optical flow and you can even come in and out of slow motion while you're shooting video. It has the usual range of social media sharing options (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube are free, but oddly you need to upgrade to Pro to email someone the vid). The upgrade to Pro will set you back £2.99, and as well as let you email your vids, you can save them to your camera roll and it'll remove the watermark (we can't help but think the free version will do just fine if truth be told). Well worth the free price tag.

Vizmato

Price: Free
Developed By: Global Delight Technologies Pvt. Ltd

To use its full and unwieldy title, Vizmato - Video Editor and Movie Maker On-The-Go is one of the most popular video-making and editing apps. It's all about trying to add some pizzazz and va-va-vroom to otherwise dull takes, and lets you shoot using your iPad's camera then you can add zome zest and sparkle with a neat range of themes and filters. There's HipHop, Haunted, Chaplin, Lovestruck, Spook, Noir and plenty more besides. You can also add some realtime special FX like Beats, Echo, Fluidic, Slow and a ton more on top. And if you're still in need of more snap, crackle and pop - Viztune will let you slap down music beats including Action, Romance and Adventure - either using the tunes from Vizmate's music library of whatever tracks you have on your iPad. It's often referred to as the Instagram of video - and it's not hard to see why with a strong focus on colour and sparkle (and it's a little bit "hip" like Instagram). While it's free to use, a lot of stuff needs an upgrade (more themes, watermarks removed). Give free a go and see how you get on.

Drawing And Painting

The iPad is an incredible tool for artists. With it's beautiful high resolution display and incredibly responsive touch screen, it's no surprise that the App Store is packed with art packages from the very basic right through to professional grade software that any artist will appreciate. We've got tutorials for three of the finest art packages currently available for iPad, the first of which being the pleasantly named Inspire Pro. Designed especially for the iPad, this app feels wonderful to use and comes with all the features an artist could want. We also look at Inkist, another very deep and feature-packed art app that lays everything before you with a customisable interface that makes all its features easily accessible. Last but most certainly not least we look at Sketches from Tayasui, with possibly the deepest and most customisable toolset of all. It has amazing flexibility for serious artists and enough helpful features to ensure even less skilled or talented users will be able to create cool images and artworks. To get the most out of these apps, you should really consider investing in an Apple Pencil if you haven't already.

"The App Store is packed with art packages from the very basic right through to professional grade software that any artist will appreciate"

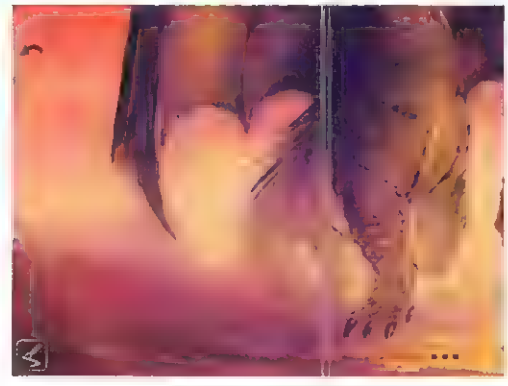
Inspire Pro

This simple but powerful app enables you to paint and draw with a wide range of tools, such as oils, markers, chalks and crayon. Here are a few tips to get you started.

Step 1: Create New Canvas

To open a new canvas, tap the 'Plus' symbol in the top right corner to bring up the New Canvas creation window. You can import an image to use as your canvas or tap Canvas Size and then Create for a blank canvas to start on.

Step 2: Select A Brush Type



Tap the Brushes button in the bottom left corner to bring up the brush selection window. This actually includes all drawing tools including pencils, crayons, airbrushes, markers, chalks and shape stamps as well.

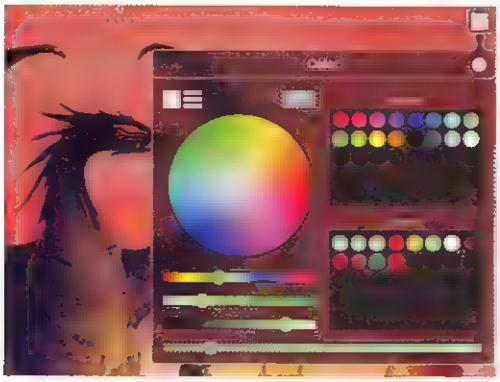
Step 3: Brush Style

For each other implement you select, you get a variety of different options of how to apply colour to the canvas. Select the one you want and then tap Edit to customise it further, using sliders to adjust the size and rotation.

Step 4: Moving And Zooming The Canvas

You can pinch to zoom in on the canvas and drag it around by holding two fingers on it and swiping in any direction. You can also rotate it by holding two fingers on it and moving them in a circle. Tap the top centre icon to return to the default view.

Step 5: Colours



The coloured square in the top right of the screen brings up the colour wheel from which you can select the colour you want. Tap the wheel and use the sliders to customise the exact colour that you're looking for.

Step 6: Dry Brushes

You can select a dry brush either in the brush selection window or by tapping the brush icon in the top left of the screen. Dry brushes don't apply colour but enable you to blend and blur colours already on the canvas.

Inspire Pro (continued)

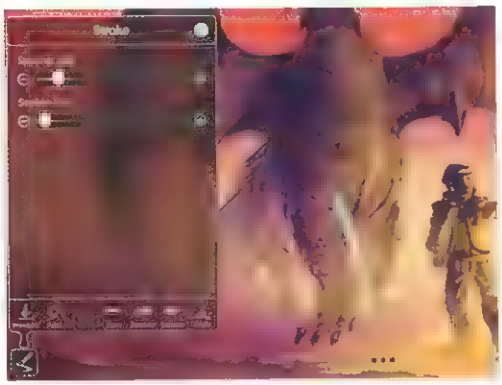
Step 7: Stroke – Pressure

Tapping the icon in the bottom left of the screen brings up the Stroke options, the first of which is Pressure. These settings control the effect of applying more or less pressure while using a stylus to apply dry and wet brushes.

Step 8: Stroke – Paint

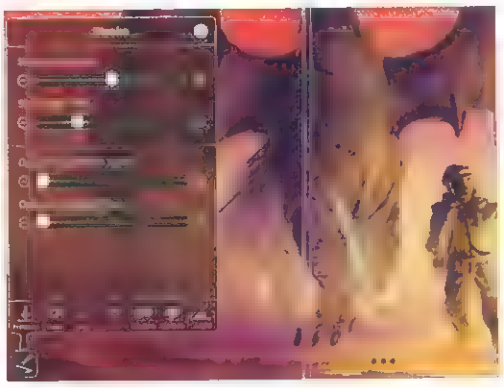
The next Stroke option is Paint. The slider enables you to adjust how much paint is loaded onto the brush. Glazing applies paint uniformly without going over the set opacity and Blending enables you to customise how colours blend.

Step 9: Stroke – Plot



The spacing slider allows you to create a continuous dabbing effect with a single stroke. The high the setting, the further apart the dabs will appear. Scatter adjusts the scatter of colour outside the actual stroke line as you apply it.

Step 10: Stroke – Taper

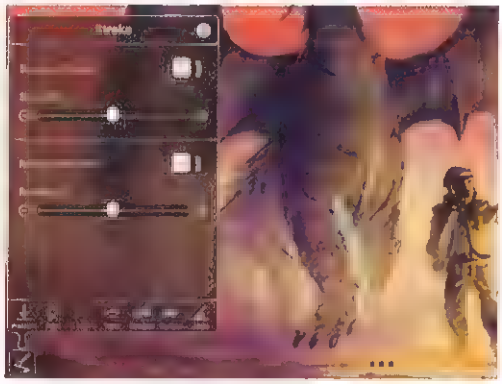


This setting gives the effect tapering the stroke. With a high taper setting, the stroke starts out thin before reaching its full thickness. The Opacity slider affects the opacity of the paper and you can also adjust its length.

Step 11: Stroke – Random

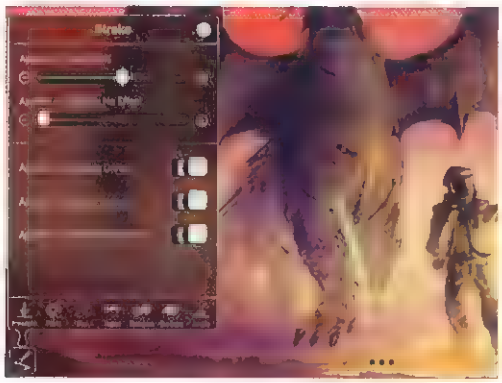
The random option offers four different sliders but basically, it selects it randomises the size of the selected brush from one stroke to the next within the parameters you set by the positions of the different sliders.

Step 12: Stroke – Surface



Surface Settings affect the application of chalk and the way it appears on the canvas. Slide all the way to the left for a completely uniform application, or to the right for a very textured effect. The slider scales the effect.

Step 13: Stroke – Angle



These options apply to angle-sensitive styluses and enable you to set exactly how much the angle affects the shape and opacity with which colour is applied. It's best to play around with the option to see what works for you.

Step 14: Undo And Redo

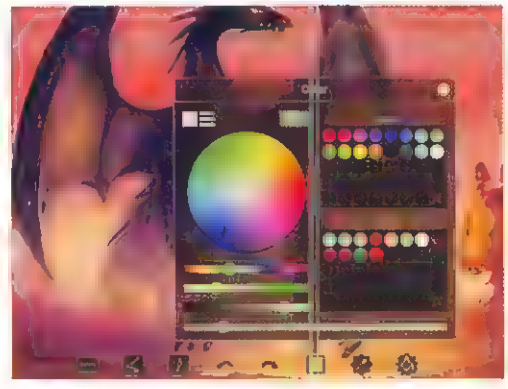
If every you make a mistake, don't worry. The Undo control is the arrow on the left of the screen and you can undo as many commands as you like. If you Undo something and want to Redo it, tap the arrow on the right.

Inspire Pro (continued)

Step 15: Control Panel

You'll notice there's a row of three dots at the bottom of the screen. This brings up an additional control panel. Some of the controls here are repeated from the main interface, like Undo, Redo, Stroke and Brush Selection.

Step 16: Canvas Fill



Tap Canvas fill to bring up the colour select wheel. Choose a colour and then tap fill to cover the entire canvas with the selected colour. This will colour over anything that's already on the canvas, so do this at the start

Step 17: Colour Dropper

This tool enables you to instantly match any colour currently on the canvas. Tap the Dopper tool and an icon will appear on the canvas. Drag the crosshair to the point of colour you want to match and then just let go.

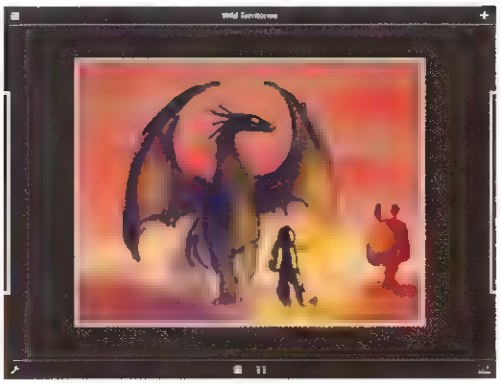
Step 18: Save Your Project

You can save your project progress at any time simply by bringing up the control panel and tapping the Gallery option on the left-hand side. This saves your project's current state and returns you to the gallery view.

Step 19: The Gallery View

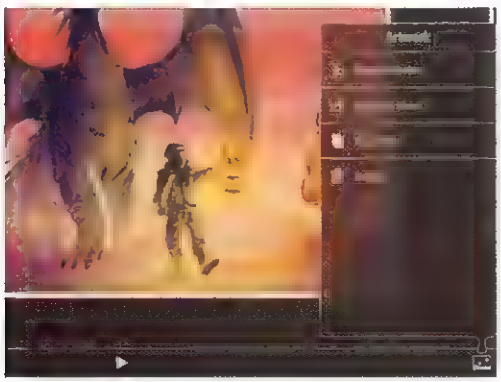
This is where you can see all your projects. Swipe left and right to see them in the preview window or tap the grid icon in the top left of the screen to bring down a gallery window with all projects shown as icons.

Step 20: Stroke By Stroke Replay



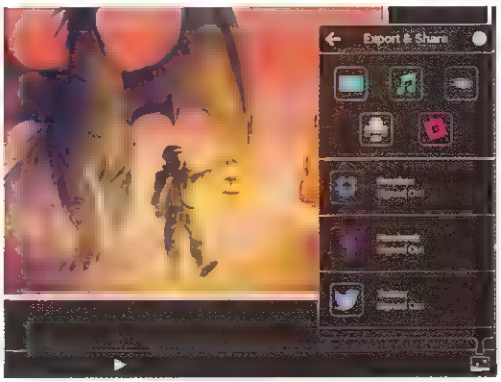
You can view a stroke by stroke replay of the construction of any project Swipe to it in the preview window and then tap the Play button at the bottom of the screen. You can pause or tap Stop to return to the gallery.

Step 21: Save Your Project



To save a project to your iPad's storage, find it in the Gallery view and tap the icon in the bottom right of the screen. Choose Save To Photos and then choose the format you want to use. Video saves it as a stroke by stroke video.

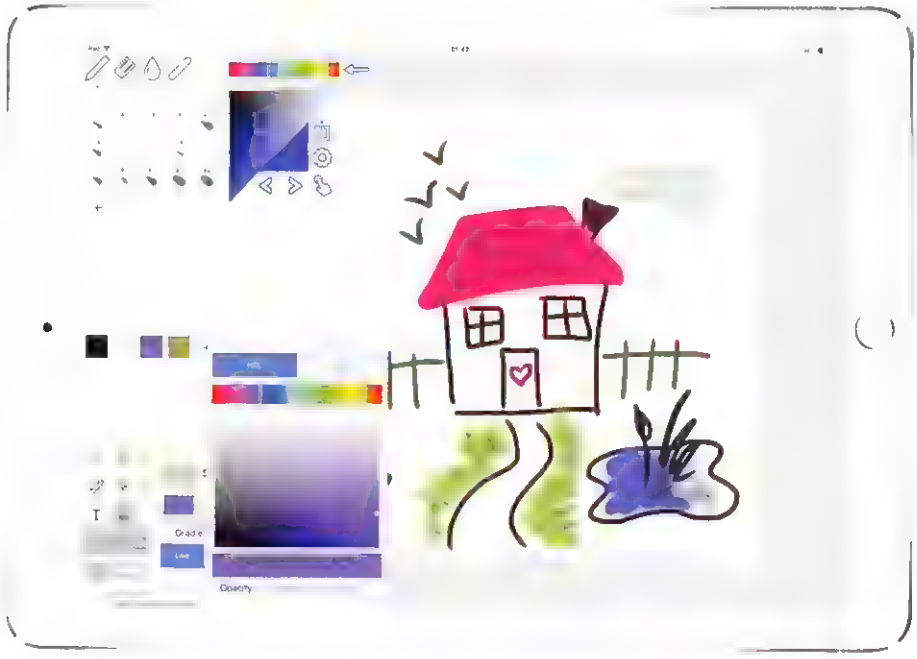
Step 22: Exporting And Sharing



From the Gallery view, tap the bottom right icon and choose Export & Share. From here you can print it, share it to Facebook, Twitter or Dropbox and even order a professionally printed copy, right from the app.

Inkist

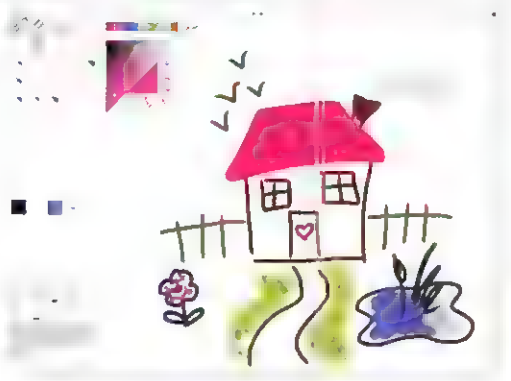
Inkist boasts a clean, clear interface that's easy to use with the ability to display all the tools all the time, or hide them away if you prefer.



Step 1: The Toolbar

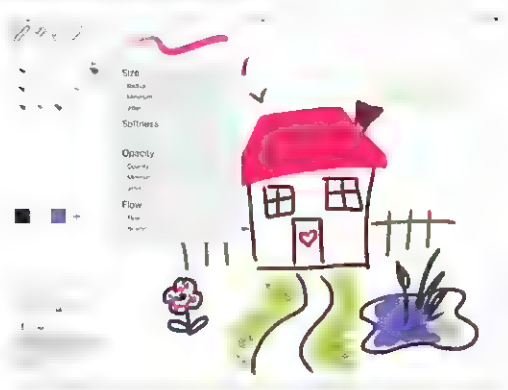
All the tools are in the panel which sits on the left of the screen by default. Put your finger anywhere in the Toolbar and swipe right to expand it. This makes it easier to work with until you know what you're doing.

Step 2: Brush Types



At the top of the Toolbar are the brush tool, the eraser, the blur tool and the straight line tool. These all work in conjunction with the Brush Styles which appear below. Select the Brush tool first to see what it can do.

Step 3: Brush Styles



Below the brush types are the default brush styles. Tap one to select it. You can then draw with it. Tap the selected Brush Style a second time to bring up the customisation window that enables you to tweak it as you like.

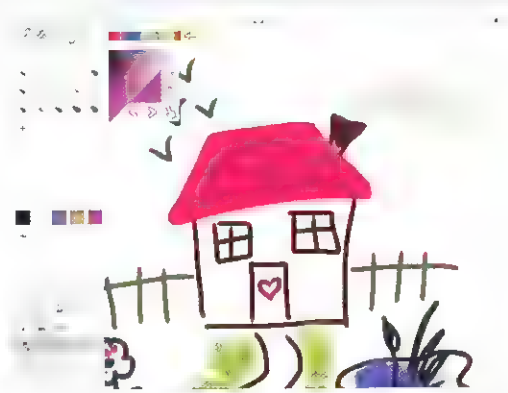
Step 4: Create A Brush

Tapping the 'Plus' symbol in the Style box replicates the selected Style. You can tap on it and edit it and keep doing this to create as many custom brushes as you need. To delete a brush, tap Delete brush in the edit menu.

Step 5: Create Colours

Slide the slider in the the colour bar to select the colour you want then choose the exact shade by tapping the in the colour triangle beneath the bar. The small triangle indicates the currently selected colour.

Step 6: The Colour Palette



The colour palette is below the Styles. You can add the currently selected colour to the palette by tapping the 'Plus' symbol in the palette. To delete a colour from the palette, double tap it and a delete button will appear.

Inkist (continued)

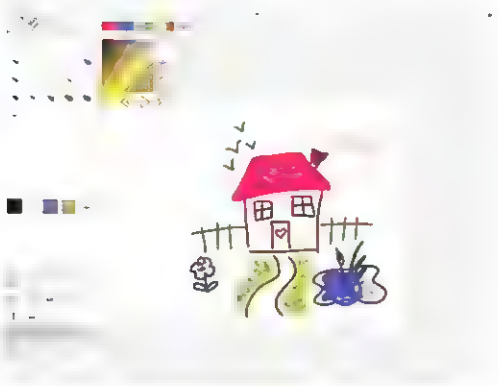
Step 7: Control Panel

Below the Palette is a control panel that contains various additional tools to help you create your masterpiece. We'll look at the most important ones over the next few steps as the functions aren't all immediately obvious.

Step 8: Move And Rotate Layers

The triangular white arrow enables you to drag the currently selected layer around (we'll cover layers a bit later). Selecting the button with two curved arrows next to it enables you to rotate the layer by swiping left and right.

Step 9: Duplicate A Colour

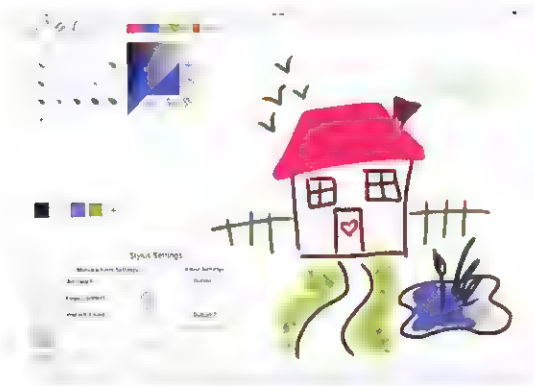


The Dropper button enables you to select any colour on the canvas just by tapping it. You can do this without selecting the dropper simply by holding your finger on the colour you want to select for a few moments.

Step 10: Copy, Cut Out And Fill

Tapping the dotted square brings up a sub-menu with a square, a circle and an irregular shape. Hold and drag on the canvas to draw the shape. You can then choose from various options including copy, cut out and fill the selected area.

Step 11: Stylus Settings



The button with a pencil on top of a cog brings up the Stylus Settings options. If you're using a stylus you can customise all aspects of the way it works here. Experimentation is the best way to get a feel for what does what.

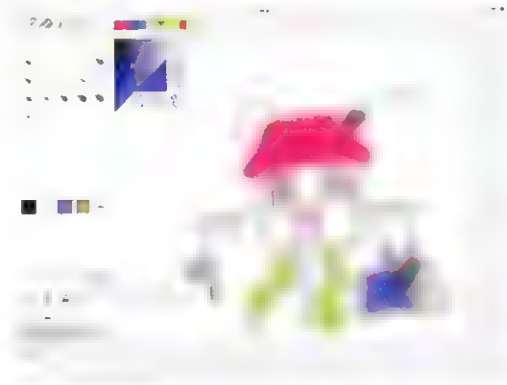
Step 12: Adjust Hue And Saturation

Tap the coloured button to bring up the Hue/Saturation controls. These affect the currently selected layer. Drag the colour bars to the desired values then adjust the sliders as required. Tap apply to confirm the changes.

Step 13: Adjust Levels

The square with a diagonal line across the middle is the Levels control. Drag the line in the pop-up window to change the levels. You can tap and drag different parts of the line to manipulate the levels in different ways.

Step 14: Blur



The Droplet button is the blur tool. Drag the slider until you get the level of blur you want and then tap apply. If you decide you don't want to apply the blur, just tap the canvas to cancel the blur and dismiss the tool.

Inkist (continued)

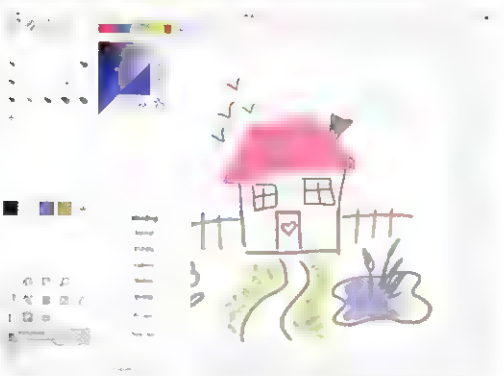
Step 15: Add Text

You can add text to your project by tapping the 'T' button then dragging a text box to the size you want it on the canvas. The Text window will appear. Tap the text field to enter text and use the tools to format it.

Step 16: Apply A Gradient Background

A gradient is one colour blending into another across the page. You can set a gradient by tapping the grey and white square button. Select the start and end colours and then swipe across where you want the gradient to start and end.

Step 17: Layers



At the bottom of the Toolbar are three sliders, marked Foreground, Midground and Background. These are your three layers. To select a layer, tap it to highlight it. The sliders set the opacity of the layer.

Step 18: General Controls

Next to the colour selection triangle are some general controls. The Cog enables you to move the Toolbar to the right, reset brushes, quicksave and revert to last save. The hand icon toggles gesture controls on and off.

Step 19: Undo And Redo

The arrows in the General Controls panel are the Undo and Redo controls. You can undo up to the last 15 actions that you performed. Keep tapping the left arrow to Undo and the right arrow to Redo if you go too far.

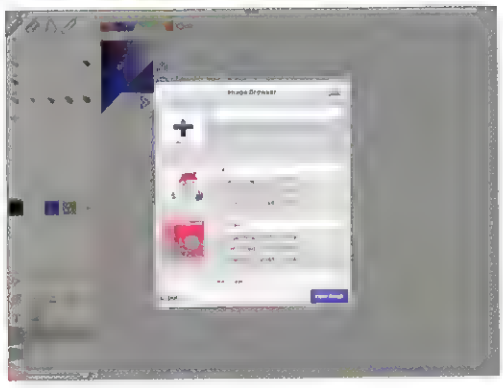
Step 20: Hide All Controls

Swipe to the left on the Toolbar to make it smaller. If you want to remove all controls from the screen entirely, tap the arrow next to the colour select bar. Only the arrow will remain on screen. Tap it to reopen the Toolbar.

Step 21: Gestures

Swipe up and down with two fingers on the Toolbar to change the brush size, three fingers to change the opacity, hold a finger on a colour on the canvas to select it, two-finger double tap to toggle between brush and eraser.

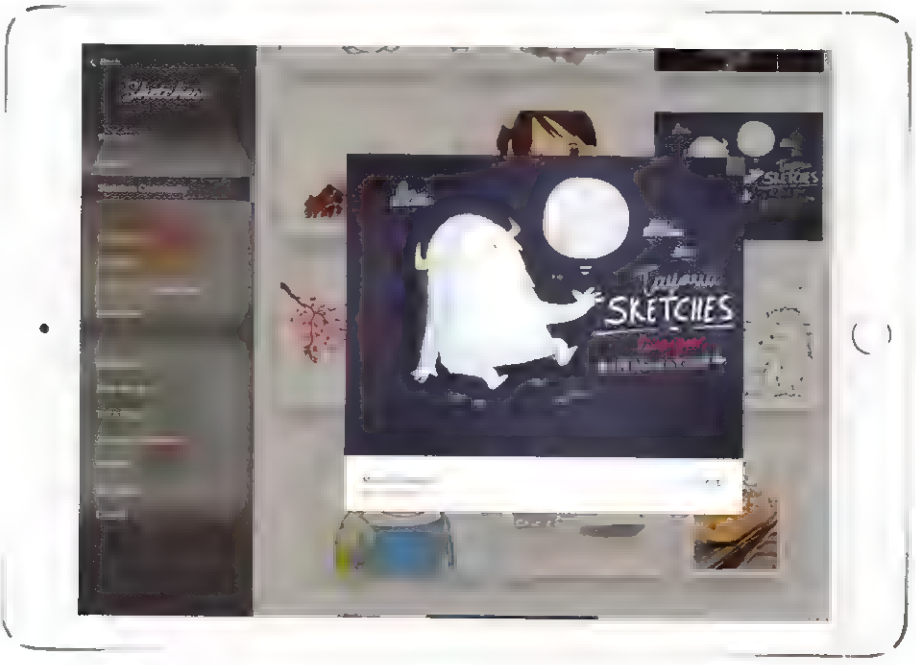
Step 22: Saving And Creating A New Project



Tap the Share button above the Cog button in the general controls. You'll see all your projects in the selection window that appears. You can choose an existing one to edit, start a new one or select one to export.

Sketches

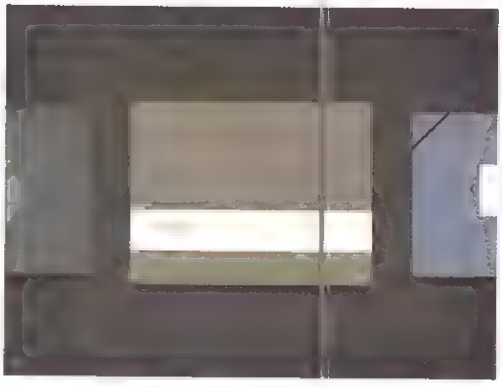
Sketches is one of the finest painting apps on the iPad. It's got a great feel to it and a set of highly customisable tools to play around with.



Step 1: Opening And Creating Projects

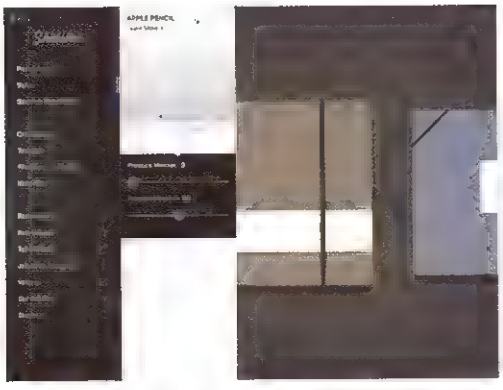
The default start screen shows a blank project with a '+' symbol. Tap this to create a new project You can also see any other projects you have saved in that particular folder. The default folder is called Sketches and is created for you.

Step 2: Adding And Deleting Folders



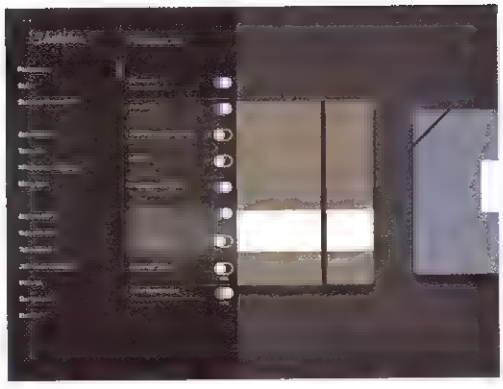
On the right side of the screen you'll see a bar. Tapping it reveals that it's actually the edge of a folder. To see all your folders swipe left and right and tap the '+' button to create a new folder. To remove a folder, swipe it down and away.

Step 3: Enable The Apple Pencil



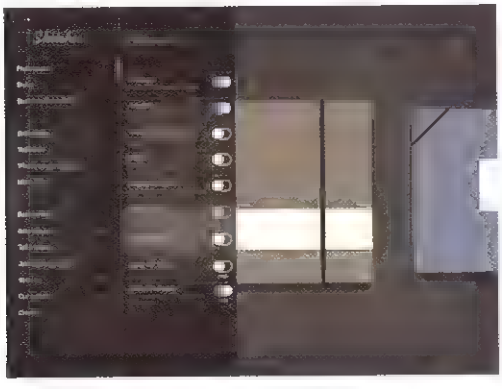
Tap the cog icon in the bottom left to open the Settings panel. From here you can enable the Apple Pencil or another compatible stylus if you have one and calibrate the pressure settings to your liking with the sliders.

Step 4: Other Settings



Staying in Settings for a moment, there are a few more useful things you might want to adjust. You can toggle various gesture controls on and also get detailed information on every tool (this requires an internet connection).

Step 5: Undo And Redo



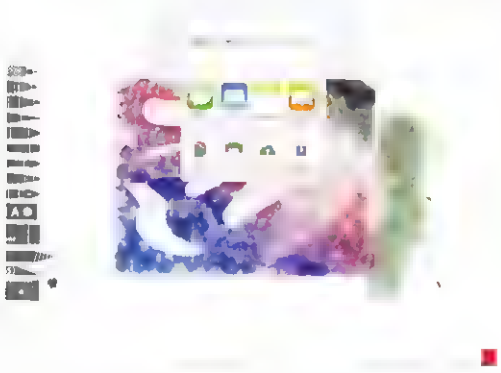
With any art app, the Undo and Redo controls are bound to get plenty of use. Swipe two fingers left to Undo and two fingers right to Redo. To display the Undo and Redo buttons on screen, tap the cog and toggle the Display Undo-Redo button.

Step 6: Zoom And Move Gestures

Gesture controls are standard and intuitive. Pinch to zoom in and out of the page. Hold two fingers on the page and drag to move it around. You can also pinch all the way in to see the gallery of all of your projects.

Sketches (continued)

Step 7: The More Menu



Tap the More Menu button (three dots) to bring up the sharing and import options where you can pull in images from Photos, save out your projects and share them to various social networks and cloud storage services.

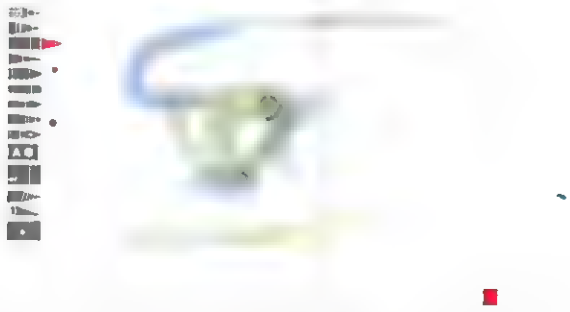
Step 8: Record Your Drawing

Also in the More Menu you'll see a video camera icon. Select this to record the creation of your project. Note that this feature isn't compatible with older iPads so it may not be available, and if not, that's why.

Step 9: Hide And Unhide Tools

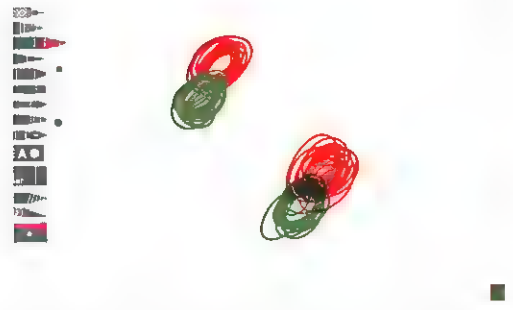
All the various brushes and other tools appear in a panel down the left side of the screen. If you want to hide the tools panel, just hold a finger on it and swipe to the left. To bring it back, swipe in to the right from the left edge of the screen.

Step 10: Brush Editor



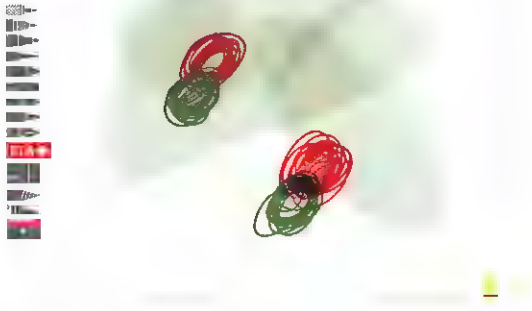
Tap the brush or tool you want to use to select it. Holding your finger on a brush enables you to adjust the size and opacity. Some tools also enable you to select different shaped tool tips to get different effects when you draw with them.

Step 11: Blending



At the bottom of the tool tips selection panel is the blending tool. This enables you to set the transparency of the brush to opaque or transparent. When set to transparent, when you paint over another colour the two colours will blend.

Step 12: The Fill Tool

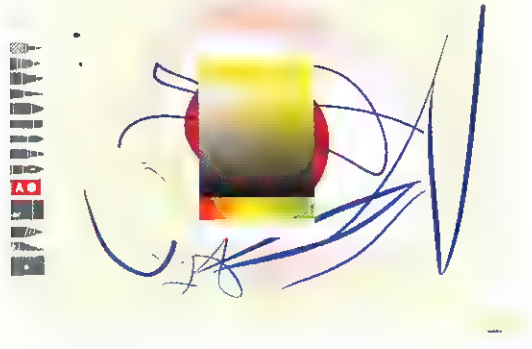


With the Fill tool selected, when you a draw a shape on the paper it will automatically be filled in with the selected colour. You can also select patterns rather than block colour and apply them in exactly the same way.

Step 13: Text And Shapes

You can add text and premade shapes to the page. Tap the tool then choose a font and type your message for text, or select the desired shape. You can rotate and scale them using standard gestures and also drag them around.

Step 14: Colour Options



The square in the bottom right shows the currently selected colour. Tap it to open the colour swatch strip and tap a colour to select it. To edit the colour further, hold you finger on the colour button to open the editor.

Sketches (continued)

Step 15: The Scalpel

The scalpel enables you to cut out any shape from what's on the paper. Tap the scalpel then trace around the area you want to cut out. A moving dotted line will appear. You can then drag, rotate, resize and duplicate the cut out.

Step 16: The Eraser

Just like the brushes and pencils, the eraser has various settings. Tapping it when selected enables you to select these. You can also set opacity so it will fade out rather than delete what you rub over. Double tap to delete a whole layer.

Step 17: Wet Watercolours

Using watercolours is one of the most satisfying aspects of Sketches and it works like a dream. The paint goes on wet and remains wet, meaning you can blend colours into each other with ease. You can also tap to create a watercolour mark.

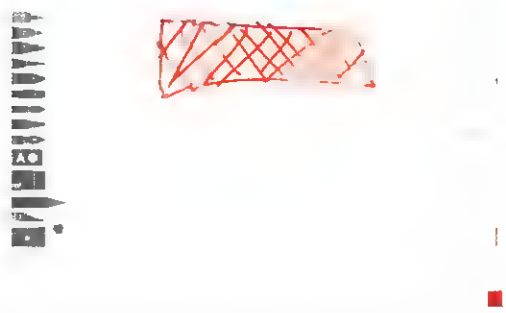
Step 18: Dry Watercolours

As stated in the previous step, the paint remains wet on the page after being applied. However you can dry it instantly by tapping the red droplet button in the bottom right. Now see how new colours no longer blend as before.

Step 19: Add Water To Wet Colour

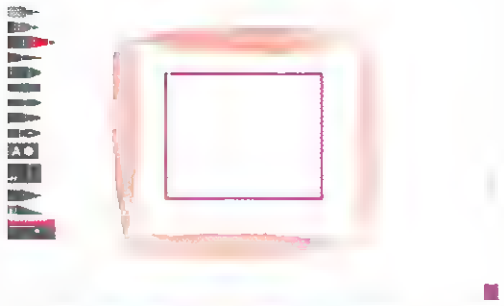
Open the brush options and tap the droplet. This adds water to your brush that enables you to further blend and mix your wet paints. If you try to use the water option on dry paint it won't do anything at all.

Step 20: The Smudge Tool



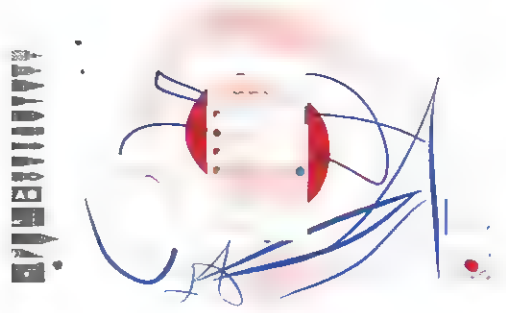
The smudge tool does exactly what you'd expect – smudging and blurring lines and detail. It has two variations. The first gives a liquefied blur effect while the second is more scratchy. Try them to see the effect clearly.

Step 21: Using The Ruler



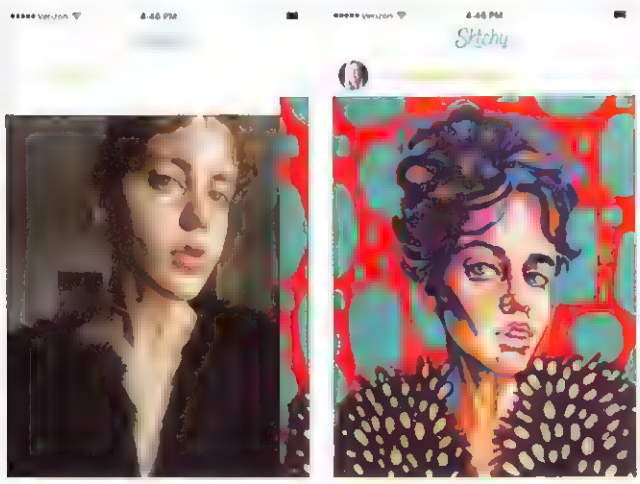
The Ruler tool enables you to draw or paint perfectly straight lines. Tap it to activate it then you can draw straight lines with the currently selected brush style. If you want to do diagonals, you can activate this in the settings.

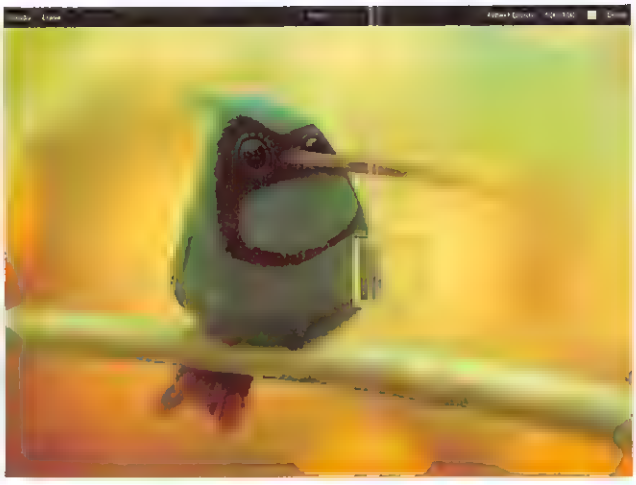
Step 22: Layers



Tap the button in the top right to access layers. Tap '+' to add a layer or tap an existing layer to select it. When selected, a small cog appears in the corner of the layer preview. Tap this to open the layer options.

Drawing And Painting Apps





Sktchy

Price: Free
Developed By: Sktchy LLC

Not a drawing app per se, Sktchy is more of an online community for artists seeking inspiration and encouragement, as it churns out a never-ending gallery of ideas, inspiration and artistic networking, designed to shake you out of your creative block and get you scribbling again.

The core of Sktchy resides in its community, which can be divided up into artists and people who want to be drawn, offering themselves up as virtual life study models (which means that there can be a modicum of nudity in the galleries). If you're an artist, it's a brilliant way of getting in touch with like-minded souls across the world, and keep tabs on latest trends.

Like all social media networks, there's the opportunity to subscribe to a newsfeed of the artists you like the look of, where you can browse their artwork (and the images which inspired it). And if you're brave enough, you can take a photo of yourself (or your dog, or your house or anything), and upload it in the hope that someone good (and sympathetic) enough will have a go at drawing you. And there's always an option to buy something you like.

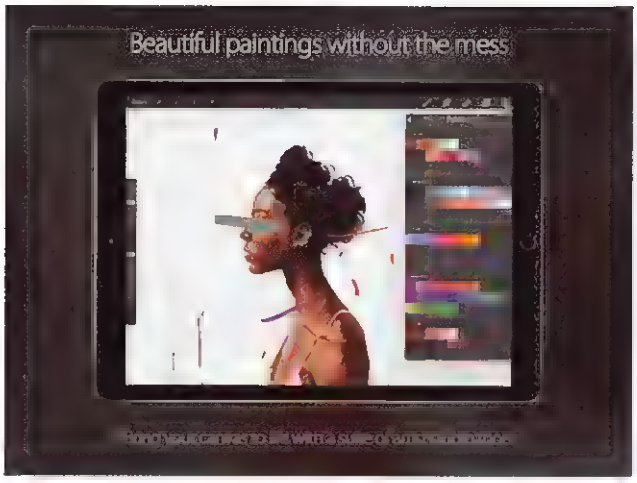
Pixelmator

Price: £1.49
Developed By: Pixelmator

If you're looking for serious bang for minimal buck and the nearest thing possible to Photoshop on an iPad, without forking out a lot more for the real thing, this is it. Like Photoshop it operates in layers, so you can stack effects on top of your original image. This means that it has an extremely forgiving editing environment to immerse yourself in, with a clean, professional interface that avoids clutter and maximises productivity.

There are tons of filters, options and tools to get lost in, as well as a full-featured painting option which allows you to add brush strokes to your photos with the flick of a finger. It has over a hundred specialist brushes and a swathe of painting techniques, with the ability to smudge, blend and distort your creations at will.

It's a great app to play with but there's also a lot for the professional to get their teeth into. You can import and export Photoshop files to and from your Mac, which means that you can seamlessly work on projects while away from the office. If you want to take your images to the next level this app is extremely hard to beat.



Procreate

Price: £4.49
Developed By: Savage Interactive

Seen by many in the business as the professional drawing app on the iPad, Procreate has long been viewed as the go-to app for working artists (particularly when combined with the Apple Pencil), but there is a lot for the amateur scribbler with a stylus or finger to like here, with an elegant interface which sleekly hides a colossal library of options.

The most important thing about Procreate is that it is ridiculously fast on the uptake when it comes to putting plastic pencil to virtual paper, boasting zero stroke lag. Even better, there are hundreds of brush pre-sets, which means that you can duplicate the width and opacity of your favoured nib/brush at a stroke. It's the small things that matter here: for example, if you rotate your iPad, the toolbar rotates with you, but the image doesn't.

Everything that can be done to get you into your creative happy place has been taken care of by the interface, with your work saved automatically in the background, up to 128 layers to work with in one image, and 250 levels of undo and redo, so you'll have to go to extreme lengths to mess up your latest masterpiece.

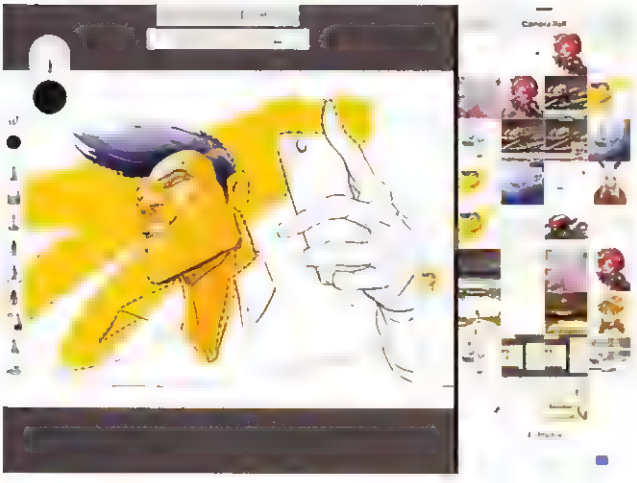
Hello Color Pencil

Price: Freemium
Developed By: Raysoft Co.

There are plenty of free doodling apps available for the iPad, but they're usually littered with pop-up ads and have limited appeal. This one isn't. Aimed squarely at kids, this is a fun and absorbing app that'll keep your nippers quiet for a long time (and, more importantly, away from other areas of your iPad which invariably involve them buying things by mistake). A simple recreation of the art of emptying a pencil case across the table and scribbling on a pad, this offers the realistic look and feel (and sound) or colour pencils.

Don't be fooled by the simplistic (but highly organised) layout though, you can get some very decent drawings out of it, whether you're using a finger or a stylus. There are plenty of in-app purchases if you want to raise your game, including a range of colouring books if your child isn't ready to go freestyle just yet, and sets of extra pencils and even marker pens if you really want to make your creations pop. And you can always undo and redo if you go over the lines.

Drawing And Painting Apps (continued)



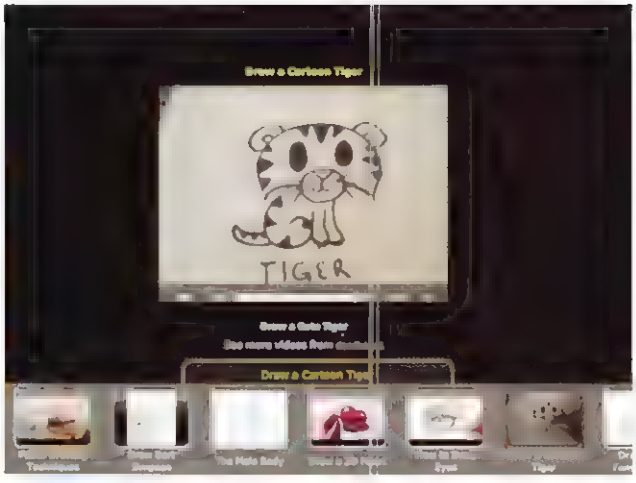
Autodesk Sketchbook

Price: Freemium
Developed By: Autodesk Inc

The app of choice for many professional computer artists, Sketchbook's free features are manifold and vast. For starters, there's a full-screen workspace with an unobtrusive user interface, allowing you the maximum space to create, and a zoom option that goes to a jaw-dropping 2500%, for the most precise amendments. There's also a whoppingly huge Brush section which allows you to adjust the type, size and opacity of your brushes to the nth degree.

The entire layout of the tools on offer can stop a computer art newbie in their tracks, but it's definitely worth absorbing yourself into the myriad options, because once you know what you're doing, the results can be outstanding. Sketchbook makes great use of 'pucks'- disc-shaped menus that can be controlled with a tap or a swipe to get what you want without putting your stylus down.

One of the standout tools is the perspective option, which deftly uses simple lines to make 3D illustration a breeze. There's so much in this app but you have to put in a bit work to get the most out of it, but it's worth it.



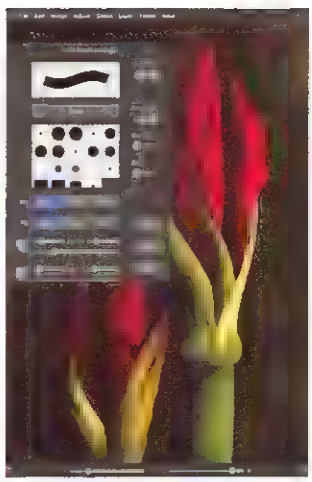
How To Draw

Price: Free
Developed By: Pacific Spirit Media

It's all well and good having access to ridiculously powerful drawing apps, but what if you can't actually draw? Maybe this will help, since it takes everything back to the absolute basics, and could help to release a latent talent you didn't know you had.

Simply put, How To Draw does exactly what it says on the tin, being a suite of videos that take you through the drawing process step by simple step. Topics include pencil drawing techniques and characters such as Pokemon and Bart Simpson, before moving on to drawing perspectives, faces, street scenes, eyes and the human body.

If you can master all that, there are mini-masterclasses on more complicated techniques, such as 3D images, graffiti, and things like Lamborghinis. While the videos are short and sweet, they pack in a lot of information, and can be gone over again and again until you get your technique down pat. And once you're done with them, you can move on to the next phase of your artistic progression with some of the other apps mentioned here.



Forge

Price: £2.29
Developed By: Co Interactive

If you prefer pencil point to Powerpoint when demonstrating your ideas, and want to sketch out your ideas whenever inspiration strikes, this app is an absolute boon. Part sketchpad, part idea de-clutterer, the idea behind Forge is to encourage you to scribble out thoughts and images, and then cluster them together in separate zones known as 'Pockets', in order to keep the good ideas, scrap the bad ones, and hone a pitch, storyboard or a script.

The sketching element of the app is definitely up to par: there's a wide range of brushes for your drawing or writing needs, with an instantly fast response rate when it comes to stylus (or finger) strokes. You're never more than a gesture away from getting at what you need to tool-wise, and it's a breeze to riffle through your notes and sketches. You can easily import image and text files from Dropbox, Adobe Creative Cloud etc, allowing you to gather together what you need if you're planning to work away from the office. Better still, it's just as easy to push your ideas out to your desktop applications.

ArtStudio

Price: £3.99
Developed By: Lucky Clan

Many artists swear by this app, and for good reason: it's been around for ages, has a vast legacy of manuals and tutorials, a busy forum where tips are traded, and does Photoshop on a tablet better than the actual Photoshop

Whether you're looking for an app to handle your sketching needs, want something to do your painting on, or just want a fast and accurate photo editing suite, ArtStudio has your back. Features on the entry-level version include a flexible canvas size, sixteen tools, 150 brushes, and comprehensive adjustment settings.

One thing that a lot of people like about ArtStudio is its clean and remarkably uncluttered layout, allowing you maximum space to get on with the job. Although it might appear a bit too uncluttered at first, to the point where you'd actually like a few reassuring-looking toolbars, it's something the newcomer can get used to very quickly. And even if you still feel that you really don't know what you're doing, there are dozens of drawing tutorials that can get the creative juices flowing.

Graphics And Animation

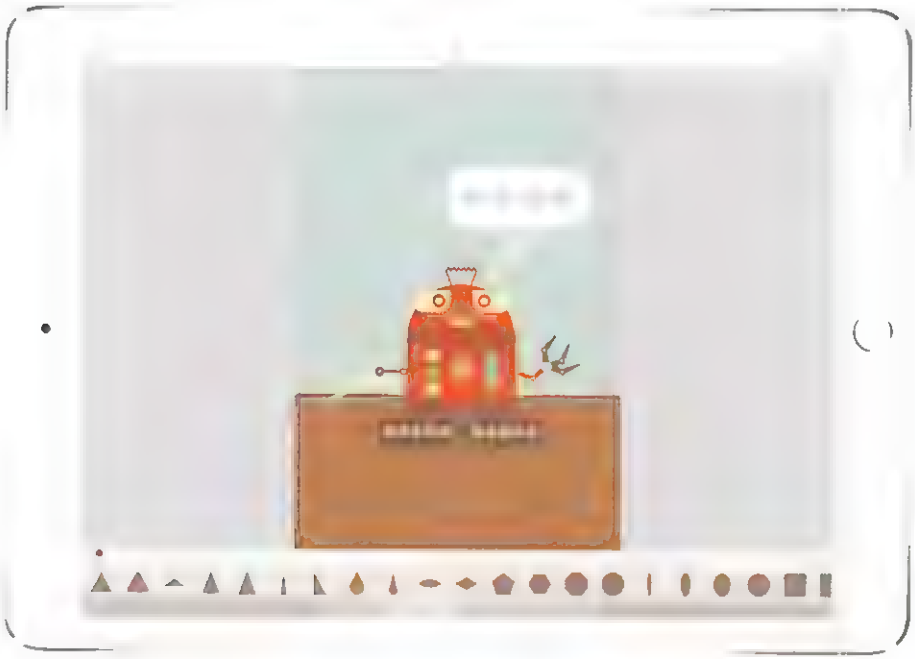
The main tutorial in this section explains everything you need to know about Assembly – a deceptively deep app with which you can create designs and graphics by placing together different shapes. It sounds simple and it can be, but with time and effort you can use it to create unique and complex works of art.

If you've ever wanted to make your own cartoons, the iPad can help thanks to a wide range of animation apps available on the App Store. From stop motion to animated images and everything else you can think of, there's an app to help you release your inner Walt Disney. We could have filled an entire guide on this subject alone with so many great apps available, but in the end we settled on a few that we think cover all the main bases including a tutorial guide to get you started with Animation Creator HD – a really neat app that enables you to create multi-layered animations with a cool and flexible toolset.

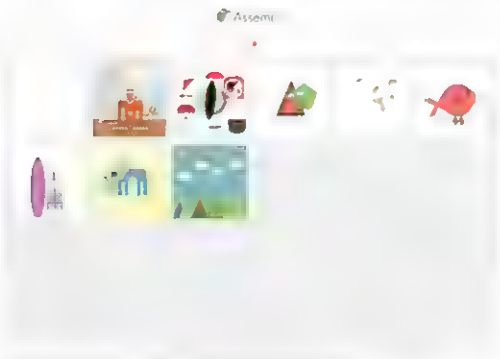
"From stop motion to animated images and everything else you can think of, there's an app to help you release your inner Walt Disney"

Assembly

Assembly is a great app for illustrators and designers, offering a flexible way to create cool logos and stylised images from simple shapes.

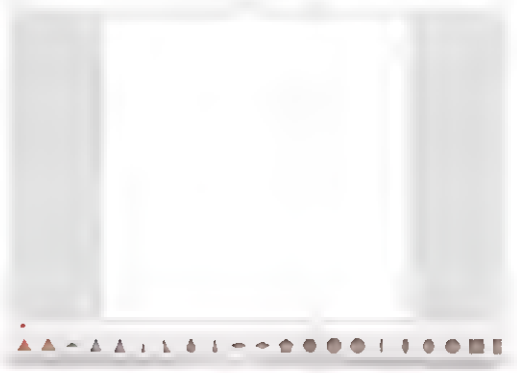


Step 1: Start A New Project



Tap the New Project box to start a new project. This will bring up a blank page. Assembly enables you to build cool images, logos and designs by placing different shapes onto the page and manipulating them in various ways.

Step 2: Shapes



The available shapes are displayed along the bottom of the screen. Swipe to scroll. Shapes are divided into categories with the name of the current category displayed above the bar. Scroll and tap the arrow to go to the next category.

Step 3: Categories

The categories make it easier to find the shape you're looking for. There are also additional shape packs available to buy through in-app purchase. You can buy these individually or get everything in one go which gets you a reduction.

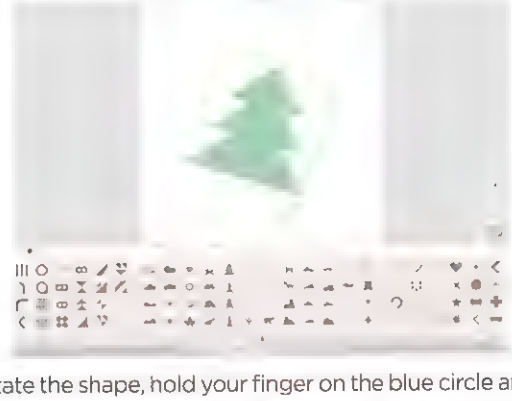
Step 4: Expanded View

Tap the name of the current category to switch to the expanded category view. This makes it easier to choose shapes but reduces the page size. At the far left of the category bar, you'll find all your recently used shapes.

Step 5: Add A shape

To add a shape, all you need to do is tap it once and it appears on the page. Tap it to select it and a dotted outline will appear around it with a circle in one corner. This shows you that the shape is selected.

Step 6: Rotate And Expand The Shape



To rotate the shape, hold your finger on the blue circle and drag it in the desired direction. To expand the shape, hold your finger on the circle and drag it outwards, or drag it inwards to make the shape smaller.

Assembly (continued)

Step 7: Stretch The Shape

If you tap blue circle, markers will appear on the highlight box. Hold your finger on the these and drag them to stretch the shape inwards or outwards. This enables you to deform the shape if you want to.

Step 8: Change Colour

To change the colour of the shape, tap the Styles tab at the bottom. Choose one of the default colours or tap the button with the three dots to bring up the colour wheel from which you can select exactly the colour you want.

Step 9: Add A Second Shape

That's all the basics you need to know, but there's not much you can do with just one shape. To add a second shape, touch the Shapes tab at the bottom of the screen, find another shape that you like and tap it to add it.

Step 10: Select Multiple Shapes

When working with multiple shapes you can just tap on each one to select and move it or edit it. If you want to move or expand shapes together, hold your finger anywhere on the page and drag to draw a box that touches all the shapes.

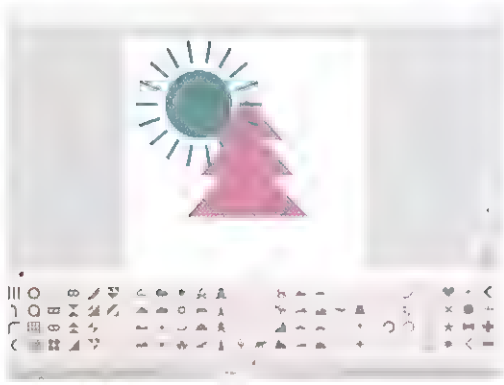
Step 11: Group Shapes

When you have multiple shapes selected a chain-link button appears in the corner of the selection box. Tap this and then tap Group. This locks all the selected objects together. To ungroup the objects, tap the broken link button.

Step 12: Combine, Cut Out And Intersect

A button appears when you select multiple shapes, adding three options. Combine turns all selected shapes into a single shape. Cut Out cuts the top layer shape out of the bottom, and Intersect leaves only the overlapping parts of the shapes.

Step 13: Snap To Position



When you rotate or position shapes next to each other the context-sensitive snap feature makes it easier to line shapes up. You can toggle the snap feature on and off by tapping the horseshoe icon at the top of the screen.

Step 14: Styles – Fill

Tap the Style tab to bring up three new options for the selected shape. As mentioned earlier, Fill enables you to change the colour of the shape. You can also adjust its opacity with the slider, enabling you to see objects beneath it.

Assembly (continued)

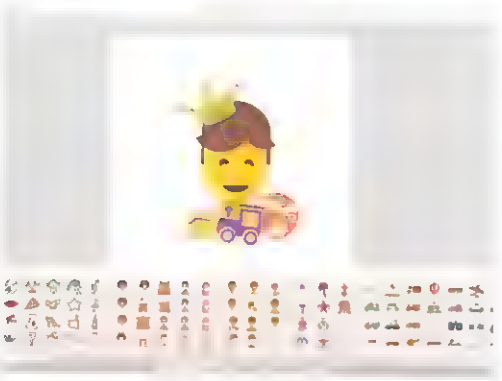
Step 15: Styles – Stroke

The next Styles option is Stroke, and this enables you to put a border around the selected shape. The further right you move the slider, the thicker the border will be. Tap the circles above the slider to choose between solid or dotted borders.

Step 16: Styles – Shadow

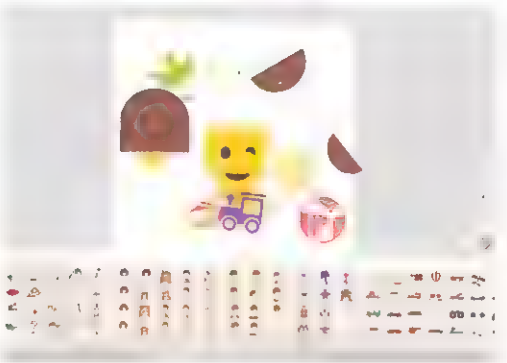
The last styles option is Shadow and it's really cool. Slide the top slider to select the intensity of the shadow. The second slider adjusts sharpness. To move the shadow, put your finger on the button to the right of the sliders and drag it.

Step 17: Stickers



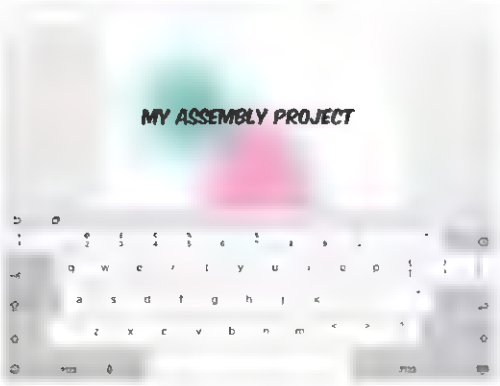
Tap the Stickers tab in the control panel at the bottom of the screen to bring up loads of cool emoji-style images you can use in your creations. The best thing though is that they're all created in Assembly themselves.

Step 18: Disassemble Stickers



All stickers can be disassembled into their constituent elements. Select the sticker by tapping it then tap the Ungroup button. You can then drag the elements off the sticker and use them yourself in your own designs.

Step 19: Add Text



To add text to your project, tap the Text tab at the bottom of the screen then tap New Text Object. This brings up the keyboard. Type in what you want and it will appear on the page as a new element which you can customise.

Step 20: Format Text

Text Objects behave in exactly the same way as shapes. You can drag the box to enlarge and rotate it. In addition, tap the Font button to select a new font and use the plus and minus buttons to adjust the kerning.

Step 21: Ungroup Text

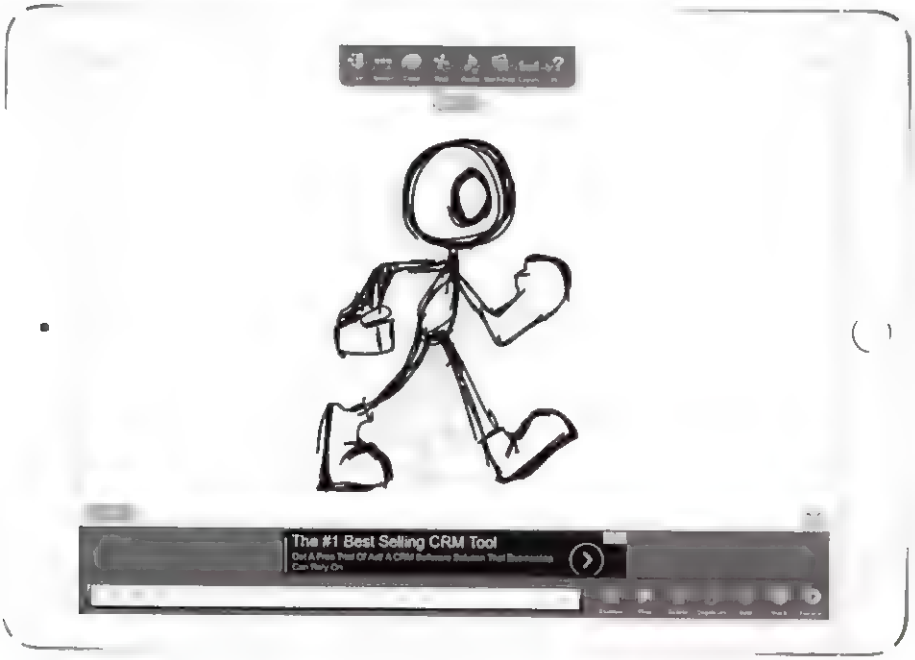
You can Ungroup text to make each letter a separate element. Tap the Text Object to select it then tap the button on the selection box and then tap Ungroup. You can then move, scale and manipulate each letter individually.

Step 22: Create A Sticker

You can create your own sticker at any time. Select all the elements on the page that you want to be part of the sticker, tap the button on the selection box then tap Sticker. Unselected elements won't appear on the sticker.

Animation Creator HD

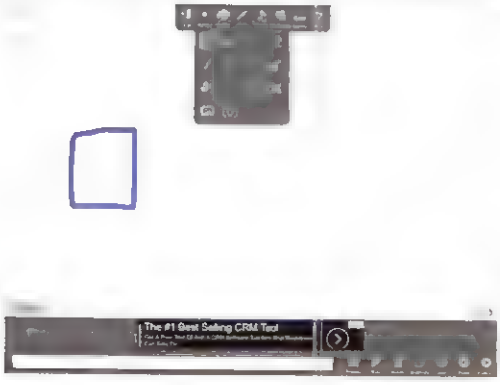
Animation Creator enables anybody to create complex, multi-layered animations. Here's a quick guide to getting started.



Step 1: Open A Project

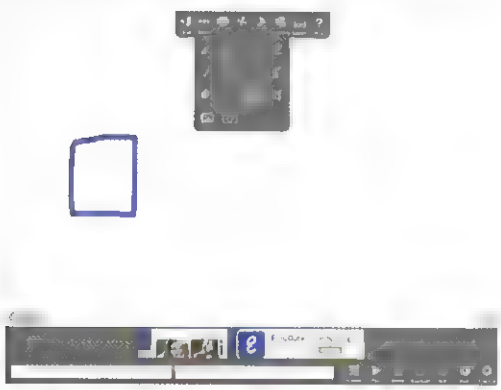
Open the app and you'll see all your saved projects. Tap the '+' symbol and select a resolution from the dropdown menu or tap an existing project and tap the Edit Animation option to continue working on it.

Step 2: Draw Controls



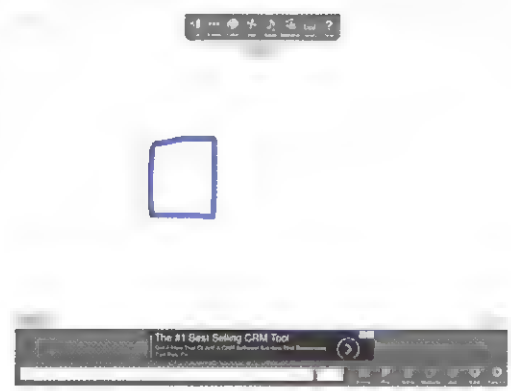
Tap the arrow button in the bottom right to open the draw controls. Choose a colour using the palette then tap the paintbrush to start drawing the first frame of your animation. Draw a simple shape at first.

Step 3: Movement Tool And Duplicate



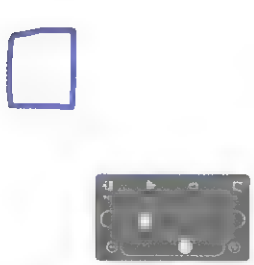
Now tap the movement tool (crossed arrows), then tap the Duplicate button at the bottom of the screen. Now hold you finger anywhere on the screen and drag to move the shape slightly, then duplicate again and repeat the process

Step 4: The Timeline



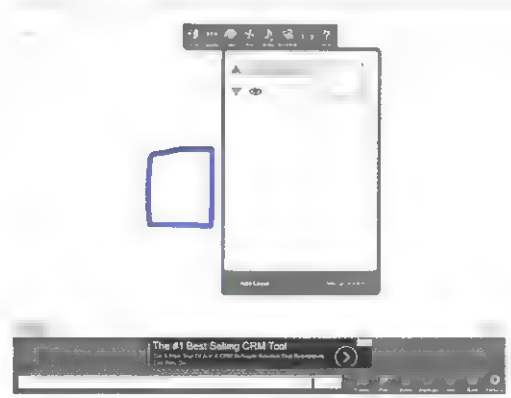
See the timeline at the bottom of the screen and notice how each time you tap Duplicate, it creates a new frame. Simply keep doing this until you have all the frames of animation that you need.

Step 5: Play And Adjust The Frame Rate



To test your animation, tap the Play button at the bottom of the screen, then a new control window will appear. Tap Play and then adjust the speed of the animation using the FPS slider. To return to editing, tap Exit.

Step 6: Layers



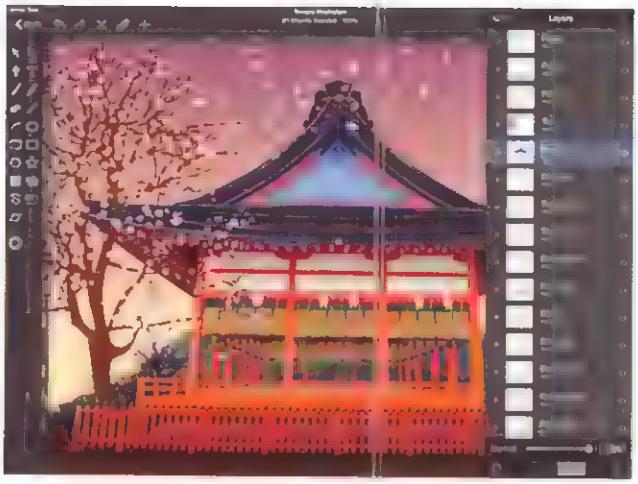
Tap the Layers button in the top control panel to add a new layer. Each layer is animated separately and independently so you can place static elements or different animations on each layer, and this is how you build your animation.

Graphics And Animation Apps

iStopMotion

Price: £8.99
Developed By: Bionx Software

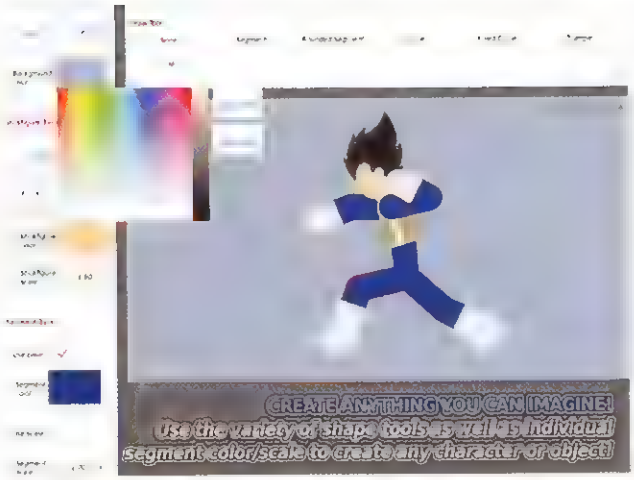
Back in the day, the best kids could hope for at creating animation would be drawing a clock ticking in the corner of a notepad then flicking through it so see - wow! Clock hand moving! Now, and for well under a tenner, iStopMotion will let you turn your iPad into the sort of tool you could use to make the latest Wallace and Gromit or The Nightmare Before Christmas. The very easy-to-use interface lets you create a project, then it's a case of taking single snaps of your movie "set", each time you move things around as you see fit. While making an Aardman Animations film might be a stretch (for both you and your iPad), you could certainly put something fun together with your kids and his or her toys and watch them come to life, like an incredibly low budget Toy Story. Other nice touches with the app are Camera Overlay, so you can compare the live image with the last stored frame, and a Remote Camera, so you can pair your iPhone with your iPad to make it more tactile. Lovely stuff.

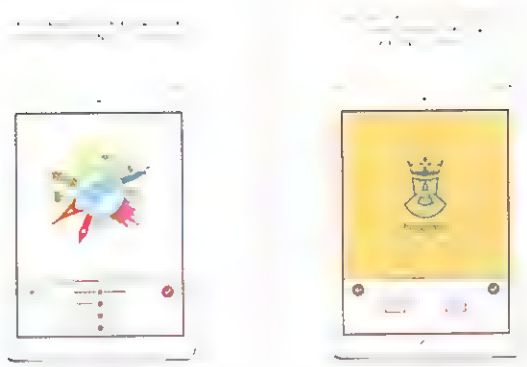


Graphic - Illustration & Design

Price: £4.49
Developed By: Indeeo, Inc

A very full and comprehensive art app, Graphic is a professional piece of software for the more seasoned artist and graphic designer. Designed to work with the Apple Pencil, it'll turn your iPad into a canvas and let you sketch and paint digitally while out and about. This is way more than just a sketch pad app; you can even create highly complex vector-based images, and the app has all the effects you'd need such as glow, shadows, filling, multiple strokes, canvas scaling, rulers - there's an awful lot of precision available for the artist who knows how to make use of it, along with all the basic functions (like being able to pick from a range of pencils and brushes). It's also extremely cross-compatible. You can even import and export PhotoShop PSDs, PDFs and SVG files, plus there's a huge set of shapes you can call up from the Shape Library, with a cracking set of tools to manipulate them. It's well supported to share your works with iCloud and DropBox. This has won a lot of awards and high praise over the years, and with very good reason.





Stick Nodes

Price: Free
Developed By: Ralph Damiano

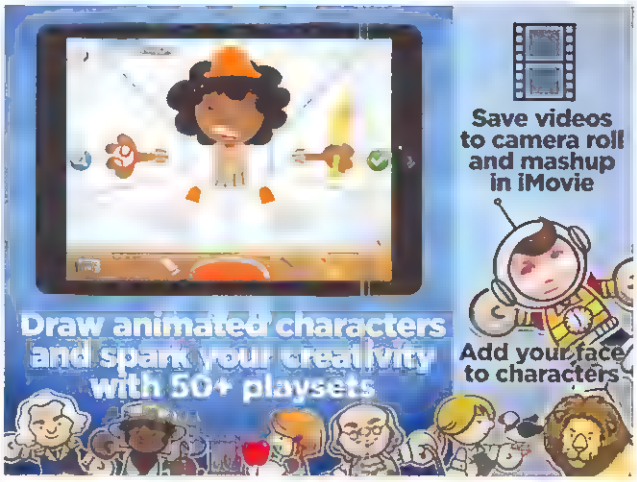
As the name suggests, Stick Nodes is a tool that lets you create and animate stickmen. Why would you want to do that? Lots of reasons. It's a great tool for beginner animators who just want to get their heads around the basics of movement without any of the faff of surface graphic glitter, and it's easier for youngsters to kick-start their animating career, much in the same way children start drawing stickmen before they move onto drawing things like, well, "men". You can customise your stickman as you see fit, creating limbs as thick or thin, long or short as you like, then you can start animating each limb to move at your command. You can create boxers having a punch up, soldiers storming a beach; anything you want, then export a GIF for the world to see. It also has a cool "animation tweening" feature, which smooths out the motion in between two frames so you can make fluid animation without having to be possessed by the spirit of Walt Disney (you can even pick the number of frames you want to tween). Marvellous stuff, and free!

LogoScopic Studio

Price: Free
Developed By: RoadRocks. LLC

Anyone who's watched the BBC sitcom W1A will know that the world of logo branding has gone beyond a joke. Often marketing agencies will charge hundreds of thousands of pounds for a tiny little icon the size of a thumbnail that's simply one colour, with some agency bod banging on about how it represents everything the client's company represents, and the £500,000 price tag will be a snip in the billions of extra revenues made from said icon. What a load of rot; if you need an icon and have an eye for art, get LogoScopic. For the price of a lungful of fresh air, you'll have access to over 850 templates to start your logo masterpiece from. From there you'll be able to recolour and perform all sorts of artwork until you get your MacDonald's Golden Arches or Apple's little black apple (with a bite taken out). There are also over 100 fonts to choose from, plenty enough. It's also very easy to export for digital and print use, so getting the end product on both your website and business cards will take no time.

Graphics And Animation Apps (continued)



Animation Desk Cloud

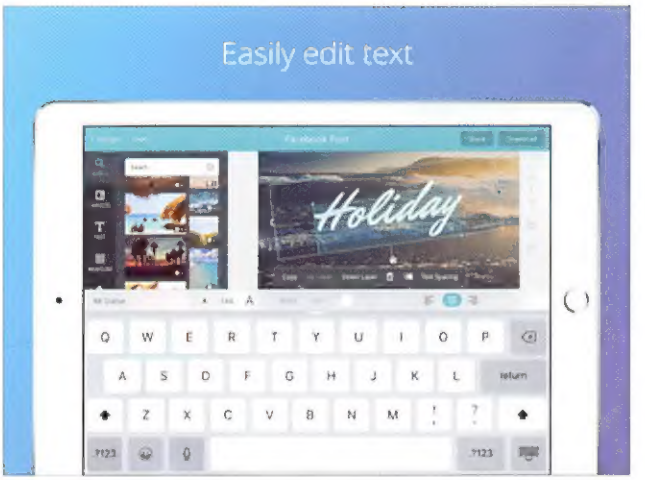
Price: Free
Developed By: Kdan Mobile Softwared

A fully-fledged animation studio app for the professional animator, Animation Desk Cloud can seem a little daunting for the first-timer and you might have no idea what you're doing when you start off. But persevere and beneath its puzzling exterior you'll find a great animation app. It's designed to work with several stylus pens, including Apple Pencil, Adonit Pixel and the Wacom Intuos Creative Stylus, and you can create great-looking cartoons frame-by-frame with the comprehensive range of features and functions. You can insert images from your photo library directly into each frame, you can do rotoscoping and there are over 20 brushes available to use. The advanced frame manager lets your repeat, delete, duplicate and reorder the frames as you see fit with minimum fuss, and the frame tagging and annotation feature makes keeping your project organised much easier. You can also customise the shortcut bar if you don't like its default layout. There are loads of export options as well, including MOV, GIF, PDF or a PhotoShop PSD file if you want to export the stills, and there are lots of in-app purchases for you to explore and weigh up.

Toontastic

Price: Free
Developed By: Launchpad Toys

As the slightly childish name suggests, this app is aimed very much at the younger artist that wants to be able to get simple animations up and running with minimum hassle. Despite being incredibly simple to use, it still lets kids (or you, if you fancy it) draw and animate decent looking projects before sharing them for the world to see. All you need to do is hit the record button, then simply move your characters around to tell the story you choose. It even records your voice and alters it to sound like a cartoon character. There are hundreds of backgrounds, themes and characters to choose from, and 50 playsets full of favourites such as pirates, aliens and princesses. You can even add some special FX with weather disasters (rain storms, tornadoes and the like) and have hilarious set pieces with anvils falling on characters and comedy explosions (think Road Runner and Tom & Jerry and you get the idea). Once your video is complete it's a doddle to export it online, or if you want a professional look import it into iMovie and give it a more refined post-production gleam.



Inkpad

Price: £2.29
Developed By: Envoza

A cracking app for those who prefer to draw using vectors, Inkpad's offering lets you do pretty much everything and anything you could think of doing with vectors, for the price of a pint of beer. You can pick, rotate and scale countless objects in a flash, make any Bezier paths you fancy and create compound masks and groups. You can whip up text objects, stroke dash patterns, switch colours and snap to grid, path edges and point. It's very easy to insert photos and images from your photo album; there's almost nothing you can't do. The editing tools are both powerful and intuitive. You can fill gradients while editing interactively on the canvas, and you can stick down all the Boolean operators you choose. It's no slouch when it comes to layers either, letting you manipulate as many layers as you want while making it easy to rearrange, delete, hide or lock each layer. And you can adjust each layer's transparency setting. Once your drawings are ready for public consumption you can export as either SVG, PDF, PNG or the good old simple JPEG - a great app.

Canva

Price: Free
Developed By: Canva

Canva is an incredibly easy-to-use graphic design app that requires very little artistic skill and even less time to get to grips with. It kicks off with a step-by-step tutorial showing you how to get your first project off the ground - even granny could muster something up using Canva - but don't let that fool you. Once you've got through the basics there's a wealth of functionality on offer so seasoned pros can make seasoned artwork. You can use your own snaps or dive into the millions of stock pictures and drawings on offer, and you can tart them up with text, stickers, borders, elements, frames and many more besides. There are hundreds of top quality templates on offer so you can get off the ground in no time, and there's a plethora of fonts, filters and the like to play around with. It's great for editing things like birthday cards and wedding invitations, but can also be used for more complex business tasks such as pitches and sales presentations. It's beautifully integrated with the social media apps so sharing stuff is also a piece of cake. Brilliant stuff.

Essential Series

iPad Art & Photography

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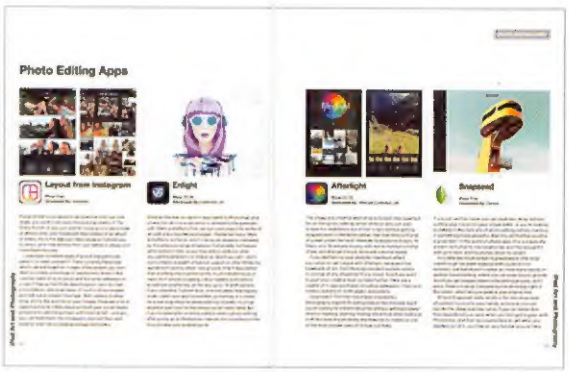

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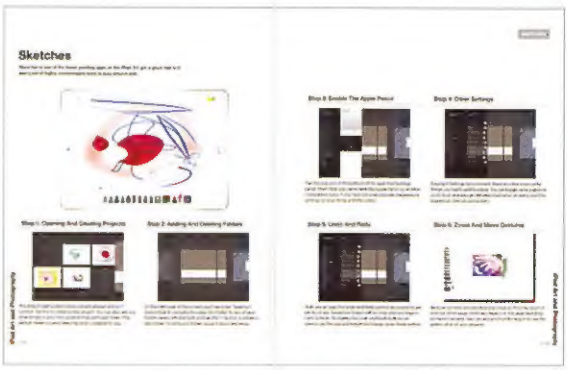

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